



**European Environment Agency**  
**Consolidated annual activity report 2019**

June 2020



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## MANAGEMENT BOARD'S ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT

### INTRODUCTION

The EEA Multiannual Work Programme (MAWP) 2014–2020 — *Expanding the knowledge base for policy implementation and long-term transitions* <sup>(1)</sup> sets out the overall objectives for the work of the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Environment Observation and Information Network (Eionet) in line with the provisions of the EEA/Eionet Regulation <sup>(2)</sup>. The MAWP is delivered through annual work programmes. This Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2019 (CAAR 2019) documents the delivery of the Agency's Annual Work Programme (AWP) for the year 2019, which is included in the Agency's Single Programming Document (SPD) 2019–2021 <sup>(3)</sup>. The EEA Management Board welcomes this fourth CAAR, in accordance with Article 48 of the EEA Financial Regulation <sup>(4)</sup> and the Commission guidelines on the template to be used by decentralised agencies for their CAAR (CAAR guidelines) <sup>(5)</sup>. The CAAR 2019 provides for the EEA's annual activity report, including comprehensive information on the implementation of the Agency's work programme, budget, staff policy plan, and management and internal control systems.

The EEA Management Board analysis and assessments follows the structure of the EEA CAAR 2019:

Part 1: Achievements of the year

Part 2:

- (A) Management
- (B) External evaluations

Part 3: Assessments of effectiveness of the internal control systems

Part 4: Management assurance

### ANALYSIS FROM THE EEA MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Management Board analysis of the EEA's Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2019 (CAAR 2019) includes observations relevant to all parts of the Agency's CAAR 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/multiannual-work-programme-2014-2020>.

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EC) No 401/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:126:0013:0022:EN:PDF>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/single-programming-document-2019-2021>.

<sup>4</sup> Financial Regulation of the European Environment Agency, Decision EEA/MB/2019/020 of 22 November 2019)

<sup>5</sup> Communication from the Commission on the guidelines for programming document for decentralised agencies and the template for the Consolidated Annual Activity Report for decentralised agencies, C(2014) 9641 final and updated by C(2020)2297.



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## PART 1 ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR

The Board welcomes the comprehensive account of the activities carried out by the EEA in 2019, as well as the overview of performance against the expected outputs defined in EEA's Annual Work Programme for 2019 (AWP 2019).

Overall, the EEA delivered well on the targets set out in its work programme for 2019, which included a considerable number of high quality deliverables across the EEA's four strategic areas defined in the MAWP 2014–2020, as well as the five-yearly State and Outlook of the Environment Report (SOER) report. The overall delivery rate in 2019 was very good. Delivery rates for key EEA outputs were as follows: 93 % of key reports/assessments, 96 % of Core Set Indicator (CSI) updating (as planned in the AWP), and 92 % annual performance for Eionet core data flows.

The work delivered in 2019 included also specific areas of work mainly financed through non-core funds, namely contributions under the Copernicus Programme, the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and European Human Biomonitoring Initiative (HBM4EU) under Horizon 2020. The MB notes the increasing proportion of non-core resources in the overall budget of the Agency. This should not be at the expense of core EEA resources, in light of the increasing complexity of administrative and financial management. It is therefore important when extending those activities to allocate appropriate human resources for non-core activities.

As a networking organisation in the field of environmental information and knowledge, the EEA continued effective cooperation with the Eionet, which includes 33 member and six cooperating countries; as well as extensive cooperation with EU institutions, including the European Commission (EC) and the European Parliament.

The EEA continued investing in further developing the shared knowledge-base of the EEA and its stakeholders through various initiatives, including active involvement in the Environmental Knowledge Community (EKC), Joint EEA-Scientific Committee seminars on EEA priority areas, and the EEAcademy.

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## PART 2 (A) MANAGEMENT

### ***Management Board***

The governance processes ensure an effective functioning of the Management Board and Bureau, in line with their mandate set out in the EEA/Eionet Regulation and the EEA Financial Regulation.

The implementation of the review of Management Board and Bureau procedures in 2019 has allowed the Board to increase its efficiency and effectiveness, to strengthen its oversight role and strategic input and advice to the EEA. In particular the new approach of convening the Bureau back-to-back to the Board meetings, and the delegation of power to the Bureau have been key to achieving this result.

The Board appreciates the transparent and effective governance process applicable to the formal interactions between the Board/Bureau and EEA's senior management team, while also recognising the added value of frequent informal interactions.

The Board recognises that the EEA's annual and multiannual work programming, is based on a balancing of the interests of the various stakeholders against the EEA's mandate and available resources for the EEA and Eionet partners.

### **Major developments**

- **Future EEA/Eionet Strategy**

Following the Commission's evaluation of the EEA and Eionet in 2018, the EEA Management Board decided on the establishment of an EEA/Eionet Strategy for the period 2021–2030, which is foreseen to be adopted in 2020. A Management Board Advisory Committee was established to provide strategic guidance to EEA on the development of the new strategy.

The EEA Management Board further notes that the EEA wants the modernisation of Eionet to be aligned with the EEA/Eionet Strategy ambition level and the EU new policy developments (i.e. the upcoming 8th EAP and the European Green Deal).

In relation to the development of the EEA/Eionet Strategy for the period 2021–2030, the Management Board assesses that the stakeholder engagement level during 2019 was appropriate. This included consultation with EEA staff, MB members, Eionet members (NFPs and ETC managers), the European Commission and the EEA's Scientific Committee in the form of a future-oriented seminar in June 2019. The Management Board is satisfied that it will be fully able to fulfil its overall advisory role in preparation of its adoption of the EEA/Eionet Strategy in 2020.

- **New core tasks**

The EEA Management Board welcomes the decision of the Budgetary Authorities to allocate an increase of the EEA's core subvention as of 2020 for a number of new tasks in support of a) the fight of climate change, b) the Green Deal initiatives, and c) Sustainable Finance initiatives.

In accordance with the new tasks agreed by the Management Board in 2017, the Board notes the following 2019 EEA/Eionet activities: a) implementation of the new data flows for the monitoring of CO<sub>2</sub> from new Heavy Duty Vehicles (HDV) and publication of reported datasets; b) support to the implementation of the Energy Union Governance, including the e-reporting platform for post-2020 reporting on progress; and c) a continued implementation of the streamlining of environmental reporting.

- **New non-core tasks**

The EEA Management Board welcomes the new two-year grant agreement between EEA and DG NEAR under the instrument of Pre-accession support (West-Balkan countries), for which the allocated budget is double that of the previous grant agreement.



- Brexit

During 2019, the EEA engaged in a process of preparing for the UK's withdrawal of the European Union. In particular the preparation of IT systems for the 'Brexit' was resource-intensive.

### ***Budgetary and financial management***

The Board notes that the Agency's initial core budget for 2019 amounted to EUR 45 229 683. The initial budget was decreased with EUR -16 455 by an amendment related to adjustments to the contributions from the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and other member countries. The Board notes the final non-core budget of EUR 45 213 228 for 2019.

The Board congratulates the EEA with its budget monitoring efforts resulting in a 100 % budget implementation rate of the available core-budget appropriations (EU subsidy and contributions from EFTA, Turkey and Switzerland in 2019). The Board further notes that the cancellation of carry-overs from 2018 to 2019 amounts to EUR 226 601, representing 5.9% of the total amount carried over, or 0.5% of the final 2018 budget.

The Agency's initially approved additional non-core revenue (Copernicus) for 2019 amounted to EUR 9 275 000. This amount was decreased by EUR -2 429 000 by an amendment in December 2019. The Board notes the final non-core budget of EUR 6 846 000 for 2019.

The Board notes a total carryover of appropriations of EUR 33 337 392 from 2019 to 2020. EUR 4 592 778 relates to the core budget (10.2%), which corresponds to an execution rate of appropriation payments of 91.1 %. The Board recognises that 57 % of the core carry-over refers to the final payments of the 2019 contribution to the ETCs (6). The Board notes that the substantial carryover of non-core funding EUR 28 744 612, and recognises that this is related to the multiannual nature of the project-based funding mechanisms. The Board further notes that the non-core procurement activity over the period 2017–2019 has been relatively stable at approximately EUR 15 million per year.

### ***Human resources management***

The Board notes that the Agency achieved an occupancy rate for officials and temporary agents of 96.8 % with 120 staff against 124 posts available in the Agency's establishment table. The Board continues to encourage the Agency to maintain the highest possible occupancy rate for available contract agent posts. When including also the authorised contract agent and national expert positions under the 2019 budget, the Agency achieved an occupancy rate for the core staff population of 93 % with 200 staff against 216 positions authorised.

The Board also notes that the Agency has, in addition, 14 staff members funded under non-core budget (contract agent positions), representing 6.5 % of the EEA staff population by the end of 2019.

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<sup>6</sup> According to the ETC grant agreements, the final payments are made after the 4th quarterly progress reports have been presented in 2020.



### ***Audit results and follow-up on recommendations***

The Board is satisfied with the level and frequency of information provided by the EEA's Internal Audit Capability (IAC) to the EEA's Management Board and Bureau; and notes the EEA's audit compliance rate of 80%.

The Board takes note of the positive opinion from the European Court of Auditors (ECA) in relation to the 2019 Annual Accounts.

The Board is pleased with the decision of the European Parliament, as the Discharge Authority, to grant the discharge in respect to the EEA budget, including the decision on the closure of the EEA accounts related to 2018 (13 May 2020).

The Board is satisfied with the independent assurance provided by the auditors, while noting with concern the continued resource intensity of the auditing in the Agency.

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## **PART 2 (B) EXTERNAL EVALUATIONS**

The EEA Management Board welcomes the positive conclusions of the Commission's evaluation of EEA and Eionet, under the Better Regulation guidelines, which was initiated in 2016 and published on 20 November 2018. It expresses a strong support to the EEA and Eionet network, not least that the EEA and Eionet fulfilled the main objectives set by the Founding Regulation, which continue to be relevant, as well as the recognition of the important EU value-added provided by the Agency, its effectiveness and efficiency.

The EEA Management Board adopted its formal response to the evaluation in June 2019 <sup>(7)</sup>.

The EEA Management Board is committed to addressing the conclusions from the evaluation exercise as one of the key drivers for the EEA/Eionet Strategy for the period 2021–2030.

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## **PART 3 ASSESSMENTS OF EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS**

### ***Risk management***

The Management Board notes that appropriate measures are in place to identify, monitor and manage risks.

The Board appreciates the Agency's signalling of significant risks and control issues, including on:

- The Commission's proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) covering the period 2021–2027, which includes the proposal to stabilise the EEA budget in nominal terms; and
- The funding of activities outside of the EU subvention and contributions from member countries (non-core).

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/documents/administrativedocuments/management-board-response-to-the/view>





The Board recognises that the Agency has been effective in adjusting to the context of decreasing resources over the period 2014–2018. Its capacity to respond to new tasks under the European Green Deal announced in December 2019 is subject of further discussion.

The Management Board also notes that where resources have been assigned to the EEA for preparatory work to assume new tasks, these do not always reflect the long-term additional work for the EEA agreed by the European institutions.

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## PART 4 MANAGEMENT ASSURANCE

The Management Board takes note of the systems in place to support the Executive Director's declaration of assurance and takes note of the declaration of assurance of the Agency's Executive Director.

The Management Board takes note of the fact that no reservations were made.

## EEA MANAGEMENT BOARD CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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### CONCLUSIONS

In assessing the CAAR 2019, the Management Board concludes the following:

- The overall performance of the EEA/Eionet is in line with the objectives included in the Agency's Annual Work Programme (AWP) for 2019.
- The reporting is in line with the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) introduced in the AWP 2019, in particular the reporting against the KPIs regarding key deliverables (assessments/briefings, core indicators and core dataflows).
- The Management Board welcomes the aggregation of all EEA/Eionet outputs (key and supporting), and assesses that internal and external factors causing the delays or partial deliveries of outputs planned in the AWP 2019 are sufficiently documented.
- The cooperation with Eionet, including the European Topic Centres (ETCs), has been at the core of the EEA's achievements for 2019.
- The Management Board is committed to further implementing the streamlining of Board and Bureau working methods, to continue monitoring the results in terms of efficiency and strategic impact of the two governance bodies, and to review periodically review and further improve its procedures as appropriate.
- The Management Board commits to address the conclusions from the Commission's evaluation of EEA and Eionet as one of the key drivers for the EEA/Eionet Strategy 2021–2030.
- The Management Board supports the Agency's intention to continue responding to new policy developments, including the European Green Deal, 8th EAP, 2030 climate and energy policy framework, monitoring and review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To reflect this EEA/Eionet commitment, the Board recommends these long-term policy developments should be addressed, to the extent possible, in the EEA/Eionet Strategy 2021–2030.



- The Management Board is satisfied that the stakeholder engagement level during 2019, including in relation to the development of the EEA/Eionet Strategy 2021–2030, was appropriate. This included consultation with EEA staff, MB members, Eionet members (NFPs and ETC managers), the European Commission and the EEA’s Scientific Committee. The Management Board is also satisfied that it was fully able to fulfil its overall advisory role in preparation of its adoption of the EEA/Eionet Strategy in 2020.
- The Management Board welcomes the joint effort of EEA management and the Eionet National Focal Points towards a progressive modernisation of Eionet. The Management Board is committed to playing an active role in this exercise.
- The Management Board notes that emerging EU policy developments are expected to impact on the EEA’s future work programming, not least the European Green Deal announced in December 2019. Moreover, the Management Board assesses that the EEA is not in the position to accept any new task without additional resources or the discontinuation of current core tasks. The Management Board welcomes in this respect the decision of the Budgetary Authorities to allocate an increase of the EEA’s core subvention as of 2020 for a number of new tasks; and assesses that this decision reflects the importance of EEA as an independent EU body with expertise in the field of environment and climate change.
- The Management Board notes that it will continue to hold the EEA to account to provide sufficient information on budget trends, in particular regarding the split between the core and non-core budget; and financial management in relation to the different non-core funding mechanisms.
- The Management Board welcomes the EEA intention to move towards a managed diversification of non-core funding, in light of the fragmentation of funding for non-core activities, and within the constraints of the EU financial framework. In this respect the Board on the one hand notes with concern that the total non-core commitments in 2019 amounted to 23% of the Agency’s total commitments, whereas the total staff members funded under non-core budget amounts only to 6.5% of the Agency’s total staff population. On the other hand the Management Board assesses the new two-year grant agreement in support of the West-Balkan countries to be a good example of such a diversification of non-core funding, in light of the pan-European dimension of the Agency.
- The budgetary, financial and human resources management during 2019 have been assessed as an example of sound management.
- The Management Board notes the high occupancy rate for officials and temporary agents of 96.8 %, with the two open posts at year-end being short-term vacancies due to natural turnover of staff.
- The Management Board also notes a 15% vacancy rate for contracts agents at the end of 2019. While conscious of the higher turnover rate for these contracts, the Board encourages the Agency to review its approach for maintaining the highest possible occupancy rate for available contract agent posts.



- The Management Board is satisfied that overall, the EEA has appropriate measures in place to identify, monitor and manage risks; although the risks associated with the proposed continued decrease in resources under the MFF 2021–2027 will become increasingly difficult to manage.
- The Management Board is satisfied that the Internal Audit Capability has managed all EEA audit activities adequately and informed the Board appropriately on audit outcomes.
- The Management Board notes that it will continue to hold the EEA to account to provide sufficient information on follow-up observations from the discharge authority and an adequate overview of actions undertaken to address the observations.
- The Management Board notes that EEA systems are in place to support the Executive Director’s declaration of assurance and no reservations were made.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the analysis and assessment of the CAAR 2019, the Management Board has formulated the following recommendations:

- The Agency should continue to inform the Board pro-actively on discussions related to the articulation of stakeholder needs and priorities towards EEA/Eionet, in light of the Board’s oversight role and mandate regarding EEA/Eionet strategic steering.
- The Environment Knowledge Community of Commission Directorates-General, and including the EEA, or any other mechanism deemed appropriate, should be used to ensure a clearer articulation, prioritisation and distribution of responsibilities between respective Commission services and the EEA in relation to providing environmental knowledge.
- The Agency should further engage with the Board in order to seek steer on the strategic direction for the Agency, including on the Agency’s future resource programming and priority setting; in light of the EEA Management Board’s oversight role. The Board identifies the development and implementation of the EEA/Eionet Strategy 2021–2030, as the key processes for the EEA to strategically engage with the Board and Eionet.
- The modernisation of Eionet should be aligned with the EEA/Eionet Strategy ambition level and the EU new policy developments (i.e. upcoming 8th EAP and European Green Deal).

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Finally, the members of the EEA Management Board would like to thank all EEA staff for their efforts over the course of the year, as well as EEA stakeholders for assisting the EEA in the delivery of its work programme, and in particular:

- all partners in the Eionet network in the member and cooperating countries, including the National Focal Points (NFPs), national reference centres (NRCs), and the seven European Topic Centres (ETCs) in the areas of Air Pollution, Transport, Noise and Industrial Pollution (ETC/ATNI), Biological Diversity (ETC/BD), Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation (ETC/CCA), Climate Change Mitigation and Energy (ETC/CME), Inland, Coastal and Marine Waters (ETC/ICM), Urban, Land and Soil Systems (ETC/ULS), and Waste and Materials in Green Economy (ETC/WMGE);



- the EEA Scientific Committee members; and
- all thematic experts and bodies providing support to the work of the EEA and Eionet.

Adopted by the Bureau by Written Procedure on 05 June 2020

*[Signed]*

Laura Burke

Chair, EEA Management Board



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### THE 2019 WORK PROGRAMME

The EEA's annual work programme (AWP) 2019, which is structured around the Agency's four strategic areas (SAs) as set out in the Agency's multiannual work programme (MAWP) 2014-2020, established the framework for 2019. The following highlights provide a snapshot of the EEA's work during the year in which the Agency celebrated 25 years working for Europe's environment:

#### ***SA1: Informing policy implementation***

The EEA's key role in informing the implementation of EU environmental policy continued effectively in 2019. EEA achievements in the period included the production of updated publications addressing air quality, climate change impact and vulnerability, and marine natural capital in support of relevant legislation.

Assessments continue to be a major input to policy implementation, covering areas such as:

- air quality (providing input to the fitness check on the ambient air quality Directives as appropriate) and noise, in support of relevant legislation;
- climate change impact, vulnerability, and adaptation and links to disaster risk reduction and improving the Climate-ADAPT platform, taking into account the outcomes of the 2018 evaluation of the EU climate change adaptation strategy and its mainstreaming into other EU policies;
- Europe's seas and an understanding of how Europe is striking the balance of using marine natural capital (Blue growth) while securing ecosystem health and human well-being.

The agency also continues to provide support for the reporting of respective data flows, including:

- support to reporting by countries and companies including streamlining of reporting and publishing updated assessments in the field of industrial emissions, including support to new reporting under Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury;
- support to the implementation of the Energy Union Governance Regulation (including the absorption of additional resources) and the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation, in particular monitoring, reporting and evaluating progress made by Member States and the EU on decarbonisation (including renewable energy) and energy efficiency;
- support to the implementation of reporting of CO<sub>2</sub> from new passenger vehicles and vans, and new legislation on CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring from Heavy Duty Vehicles (HDVs);
- support to the implementation of new data flows under the LULUCF Regulation, including use of data from the Copernicus land monitoring service;
- support to the water framework directive (WFD) evaluation process towards potential review, with particular emphasis on hydromorphology aspects;

- processing of third round nature directives reporting obligations towards the *State of nature in the EU* report; ecosystems integrated assessment work and products in support to the final evaluation of the biodiversity strategy to 2020.

Other knowledge products were also developed, including:

- interactive maps and viewers on land degradation and evolution of land and soil functions;
- the European Air Quality Index that displays up-to-date air quality information reported by countries;
- indicators for land system assessments using Copernicus land monitoring services and other earth observation products.

Meanwhile, waste policy objectives were supported through analysis of waste management in Europe and the fourth annual waste prevention review.

### **SA2: Assessing systemic challenges**

The EEA continued its work on systemic challenges facing Europe. This included the fourth in a series of reports on the circular economy *Paving the way for a circular economy: insights on status and potential*, taking stock of trends in resource use and waste, potentials for transitioning to a circular economy and insights on emerging practices for monitoring progress.

In the area of environment, health and well-being, a report was completed for 2020 publication, focusing on the relationships between where people live, their socio-economic status and their exposure to environmental pressures.

*The European environment — State and outlook 2020* report (SOER 2020) Integrated assessment report was published in December 2019, covering trends, progress and outlooks across established environment and climate policy objectives along with a system-based assessment of the challenges and prospects for achievement of EU sustainability objectives. Alongside this, a stakeholder interaction process was designed to reflect on the outcomes of SOER 2020.

The Agency continued to support progress towards sustainable transitions with reports focussing on policy and practice, and drivers of change in their relation to sustainability transitions in Europe.

### **Strategic area 3: Knowledge co-creation, sharing and use**

Eionet continues to be at the heart of EEA activities. In 2019, Eionet was further strengthened via enhancement of links to relevant actors and networks in the context of the Environmental Knowledge Community. In cooperation with Eionet, as well as DGs ENV, DEVCO, CLIMA, RTD and ESTAT, the EEA continued to provide inputs to support the EU monitoring and review process of the Sustainable Development Goals. The EU developments and importance of the environment and climate agendas following the appointment of the new European Commission were central to the EEA-Eionet dialogue.

During the year, a draft outline of the Eionet Modernisation process was prepared and a dedicated working group on Eionet modernisation was proposed by NFPs to be established in early 2020.

Implementation of the EEA communication framework continued during the year, adapting to rapidly changing technologies, communication and dialogue channels, while improvements were made to EEA internal co-creation and sharing.

#### **Strategic area 4: EEA management**

During 2019, the EEA both tracked and contributed to the Commission-led process to evaluate and propose changes to the EEA/Eionet Regulation and clarify impacts on the timing and substance of EEA multiannual programming.

The EEA Financial Regulation was also revised following the update of the Framework Financial Regulation.

Scientific Committee members continued providing input to the EEA on core topics, through attending EEA meetings, representing EEA at external events and reviewing EEA publications relevant to their individual expertise.

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## ACHIEVING ANNUAL GOALS

The goals of the EEA are to provide European decision-makers and citizens with access to timely and relevant information and knowledge to provide a sound basis for environmental policies.

Structuring this work were the pillars of EU and international legislation and agreements, and broader objectives such as the 7th Environmental Action Programme *Living well, within the limits of our planet*, which has been the EU's framework for a sustainable future.

In this context, the EEA's activities in 2019 described in this report clearly illustrate the central position that the EEA and Eionet occupy in the implementation of EU environmental and climate policy. From putting information on climate change, air quality, pollution, noise and transport at Europe's fingertips, to reporting on social vulnerability and just transitions, the Agency again strengthened its role as a committed knowledge actor contributing to supporting policy implementation towards systemic, long-term solutions.

In 2019 there was a strong focus on communications around the launch of SOER 2020, the EEA's five-yearly integrated assessment, including a launch event at the Council of the European Union and a press conference with Vice President Timmermans and Commissioner Sinkevičius in December.

Meanwhile, 2019 also saw events to mark the EEA's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, along with a commemorative 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary publication, bringing together stakeholders and contributors from across Europe to recognise the vital work carried out by the agency over the past quarter century, while looking forward to the EEA's role, goals and ambitions over the years to come.

EEA produced a total of 54 publications in 2019, including assessments, briefings, factsheets and other reports. The 2018 *Air quality in Europe* report was 2019's most downloaded content, with 10 421 downloads, while the Air Quality Index map was the most popular content page, with 281 465 views.



Our success at making data available in forms that users need and appreciate was again demonstrated in 2019. For the third year running, the 'data and maps' section was the most visited section of the EEA website, with more than 2.75 million page views. The EEA web map servers received 375 million requests to view maps produced by the EEA, a 25% increase from 2018.

Cooperation is at the heart of what we do. The AWP 2019, which underpinned efforts to achieve our goals in 2019, was undertaken successfully thanks to the efforts of our Eionet partners (National Focal Points, National Reference Centres and European Topic Centres), cooperating countries and a wide range of partner institutions.





## INTRODUCTION

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE EEA AND ITS MISSION

#### BACKGROUND — EEA/EIONET REGULATION

The EEA is a decentralised agency of the EU. According to its mission, the EEA aims to support sustainable development and help achieve significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment through the provision of timely, targeted, relevant and reliable information to policymaking agents and the public.

The EEA/Eionet Regulation establishing the EEA was adopted by the EU in 1990 <sup>(8)</sup> and came into force in late 1993. Immediately after this, it was decided to locate the EEA in Copenhagen, where it has been operational since 1994, with the EEA celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2019. The EEA's founding regulation also established the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet). The EEA's mandate, established in the EEA/Eionet Regulation, is:

- to help the European Community and the EEA member countries make informed decisions about improving the environment, integrating environmental considerations into economic policies and moving towards sustainability;
- to coordinate Eionet.

#### KEY GOALS 2019-2021

As acknowledged in the most recent independent evaluation, the EEA operates in a complex multi-level and multi-actor governance setting at EU, national and global levels, and with research institutes, businesses and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The specific role of the EEA is to support policymaking at the EU level and build capacity in countries, using Eionet as its unique partner to generate two-way flows of quality-assured environmental data and information.

The nature of environmental challenges has evolved over decades, requiring parallel adaptations to information flows and their assessment. Looking ahead at the challenges Europe is likely to face in the coming decades, there is an increasing need to speed up the adaptation of environmental information flows and assessments to support transition objectives while maintaining and improving the knowledge base supporting established and developing policies across the cycle.

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<sup>(8)</sup> The EEA was formally established in 1990 by Council Regulation No 1210/90. This regulation was subsequently amended by Council Regulation No 933/1999 and then again by Regulation No 1641/2003 of the European Parliament and the Council. In the interests of clarity and rationality, the regulation was codified by Regulation (EC) No 401/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009.



Continuously emerging, new and updated scientific insights into environment and climate issues improve the knowledge base for environment and climate policies. To fulfil its science-policy interface role, the EEA is working closely with the Directorate-General (DG) for Research and Innovation (RTD), the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the EEA's Scientific Committee and others seeking to help inform decisions made in relation to the EU framework research programmes (e.g. Horizon 2020 and earlier), which will play a major role in developing such insights.

Based on this and the mandate set out in the EEA/Eionet Regulation, the strategic objectives of the EEA for the period of the multiannual work programme (MAWP) 2014-2020 are as follows:

- to be the prime source of knowledge at the European level for informing the implementation of European and national environment and climate policies;
- to be a leading knowledge centre for the information needed to support long-term transition challenges and objectives;
- to be the lead organisation at the European level that facilitates knowledge-sharing and capacity-building in the field of the environment and climate change;
- to deliver excellence when implementing the work programme, resource management and adherence to all EU rules.

To secure the knowledge and evidence base for the developing policy framework, in line with priority objective 5 of the Seventh Environment Action Programme (7th EAP) and in response to the four multiannual strategic objectives, the Single Programming Document (SPD) 2019-2021 is structured around four strategic areas (SA1-SA4):

#### **SA1: Informing policy implementation**

Provide feedback and input on long-established and emerging policy frameworks, objectives and targets by reporting on progress in recognised environmental themes, including links to those sectors that are the primary sources of environmental pressures, and reporting on the state of and trends in natural environment systems — atmosphere, oceans, land — using the driving forces-pressure-state-impact-response (DPSIR) assessment framework.

#### **SA2: Assessing systemic challenges**

Provide support to improve synergies and policy coherence across environmental, economic and social systems by applying established and experimental integrated assessment techniques and prospective analysis, with short and long time perspectives and in cooperation with key stakeholders and partners. The work is in support of the long-term vision set out in the 7th EAP and consequent environment policies. It underpins policy initiatives in the Europe 2020 strategy, the circular economy package, the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Roadmap for moving to a low-carbon economy in 2050, the EU health for growth programme, the Roadmap to a resource-efficient Europe, and the Innovation Union flagship initiative.



### SA3: Knowledge co-creation, sharing and use

Support work in the above areas by building and maintaining networks of people and information systems as the basis for sharing and co-creating knowledge based on data, indicators or assessments, in a transparent manner, with other stakeholders at national, European and global levels. Targeted information, communication and participation remain important instruments to achieve significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment, responding to emerging challenges and societal developments. Communication will play a major role in making sure that information targets, and ensures a dialogue with, stakeholders and society at large.

### SA4: EEA management

EEA management, administration and operational services make up a fourth area of work. Strict adherence to all principles, rules and regulations that apply to the EEA, in combination with continuously improving the efficiency and effectiveness of EEA management, are the guiding principles. SA4 will ensure the Agency's response to the recommendations formulated in the evaluation.

### Key performance indicators

To monitor the EEA's performance in the light of these objectives, the EEA uses a set of 17 multiannual key performance indicators (KPIs) to allow analysis of actual **input** (in terms of budget and staff) and **output** (key products) against the agreed targets, as well as the **uptake** in terms of visibility, web traffic, data use and ultimately user satisfaction. The **development** indicators capture organisational aspects (see Section 1.4 EEA management).

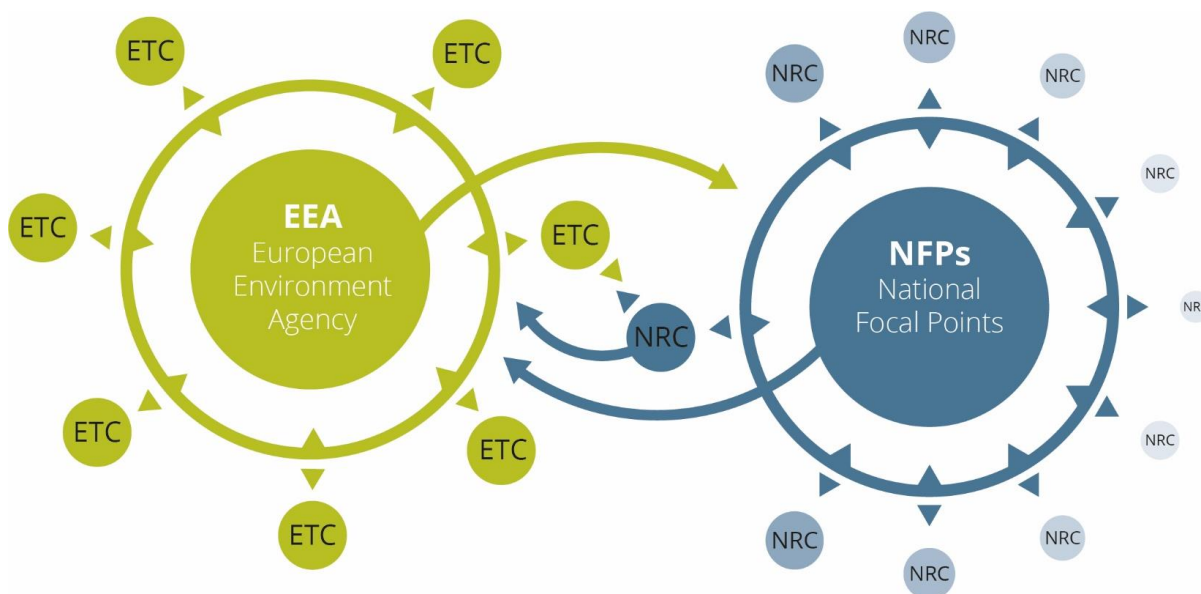
## EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

### EIONET — COOPERATION ACROSS EUROPE

Eionet is a partnership network of the EEA and its member and cooperating countries, consisting of the EEA itself, seven European topic centres (ETCs) and a network of around 1 500 experts from 39 countries <sup>(9)</sup> in up to 400 national bodies that deal with environmental information. Country experts are designated as national focal points (NFPs), typically national environment agencies or environment ministries, and national reference centres (NRCs). The EEA is responsible for developing and coordinating this network's activities.

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<sup>(9)</sup> The 33 member countries in 2019 include the 28 EU Member States, together with Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. The six cooperating (Western Balkan) countries are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99. See also the [EEA's web page 'About Eionet'](#).



The seven ETCs cover the following areas:

- Air Pollution and Climate Change Mitigation (ETC/ACM);
- Biological Diversity (ETC/BD);
- Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation (ETC/CCA);
- Climate Change Mitigation and Energy (ETC/CME);
- Inland, Coastal and Marine Waters (ETC/ICM);
- Urban, Land and Soil Systems (ETC/ULS);
- Waste and Materials in a Green Economy (ETC/WMGE).

More information on the network is available on the [EEA's web page 'About Eionet'](#).

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## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Most environmental issues are of a transboundary nature and many have a global scope. They can be addressed effectively only through international cooperation. The focus of EEA core-funded work in a regional European context is to contribute to environmental information and assessment activities under various conventions and other processes. Depending on needs, EEA contributions range from data and information sharing to assessment-related inputs, as well as fostering networking and information partnerships.

### **Regional cooperation**

The EEA has a long track record of thematic and cross-cutting cooperation, including countries beyond Eionet. In particular, it cooperates with various regional processes and bodies that cover geographical areas with close or transboundary geographical or geo-political links to the EU and where there are well-defined EU policies.

The EEA also cooperates and fosters partnerships with its neighbours and other countries and regions in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy, supported through the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). In particular, two multiannual projects (2016-2020) underpin the EEA's activities with the six Eastern Partnership and nine Southern Mediterranean partner countries to support environmental protection and the strengthening of environmental governance. The ENI activities in 2019 successfully continued to provide technical assistance, capacity building workshops and technical meetings, in line with ongoing Eionet practice and in conjunction with key international partners and organisations.

Cooperation at the regional level includes the following organisations: the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Arctic Council, the Nordic Council and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), as well as UN bodies such as the UN Environment Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the UN Environment Programme Europe Office.

### ***Cooperation with international organisations***

The EEA has a longstanding tradition of working with international organisations at global and regional levels in areas of common interest and in the context of the EEA's MAWP 2014-2020.

Cooperation at the global level includes the following organisations: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Statistical Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Meteorological Organization and the secretariats of global conventions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

After the adoption of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, including the SDGs, the framework for the follow-up and review of the 2030 agenda is now being made more concrete at the national, regional and global levels. The EEA has a particular role to play at the regional level in contributing to the monitoring and review work, including contributing to the monitoring of the SDGs at the EU level. This work is being carried out in close cooperation with the European Commission and EU Member States.

There are also ongoing engagements with the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and with the UN Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management.



## CONDITIONS AND CHALLENGES UNDER WHICH THE EEA OPERATES

### CONDITIONS

The following section includes a concise summary of the main conditions for the Agency's operation, as defined in the EEA/Eionet Regulation.

The EEA is a decentralised agency of the EU. The Agency is set up as an independent body with its own legal personality and for an indefinite period. EEA funding consists of an EU subsidy (subject to approval by the budgetary authority and non-core budget) and payments for services rendered. The EU Financial Regulation (and its Rules of Application) and the Framework Financial Regulation apply to the Agency. The European Parliament is the Agency's discharge authority.

With respect to human resources, the Staff Regulation defines the overarching principles for EEA staff, and implementing provisions have to be adopted in agreement with the European Commission. Furthermore, the establishment and mandate for both the EEA Management Board and the Scientific Committee are defined, as well as the responsibilities and accountability of the Executive Director as the legal representative of the Agency.

Finally, the EEA's founding regulation includes the provision that the Agency is open to countries that are not members of the EU, but for which there are agreements with the EEA in the context of Article 300 of the Treaty on European Union.

### CHALLENGES FOR 2019

Following the European Parliament elections in summer 2019, the new European Commission entered office on 1 December 2019. This was a time of change for environment and climate policy in the EU — supported by calls for action from the public, the European Green Deal was set at the heart of the European political agenda. This presents an important challenge for European environment and climate policies while providing a unique opportunity to scale up and speed up a green and just transition for Europe. The EEA will play a key role in supporting the ambitious agenda set out under the European Green Deal.

In December 2019, the EEA released the sixth edition of its flagship *The European environment — State and outlook 2020* report (SOER 2020) <sup>(10)</sup>. This comprehensive report reinforced growing calls for bold, decisive and immediate action. SOER 2020 shows that European legislation and policy targets have succeeded on many fronts. Although significant, the pace of these gains is insufficient in the face of the challenges that lie ahead. SOER 2020 was presented just before the proposal for the European Green Deal and was welcomed as a baseline for key elements of the ambition set out in the proposal.

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<sup>(10)</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/soer-2020/>

Throughout 2019, the EEA engaged in a process of preparing for the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU. The Agency followed the guidelines received by the European Commission Task Force established to oversee this process while maintaining constructive discussions with UK officials to ensure that the network in the United Kingdom was kept fully informed of relevant developments.

## ACTS OF DELEGATION AND SUB-DELEGATION

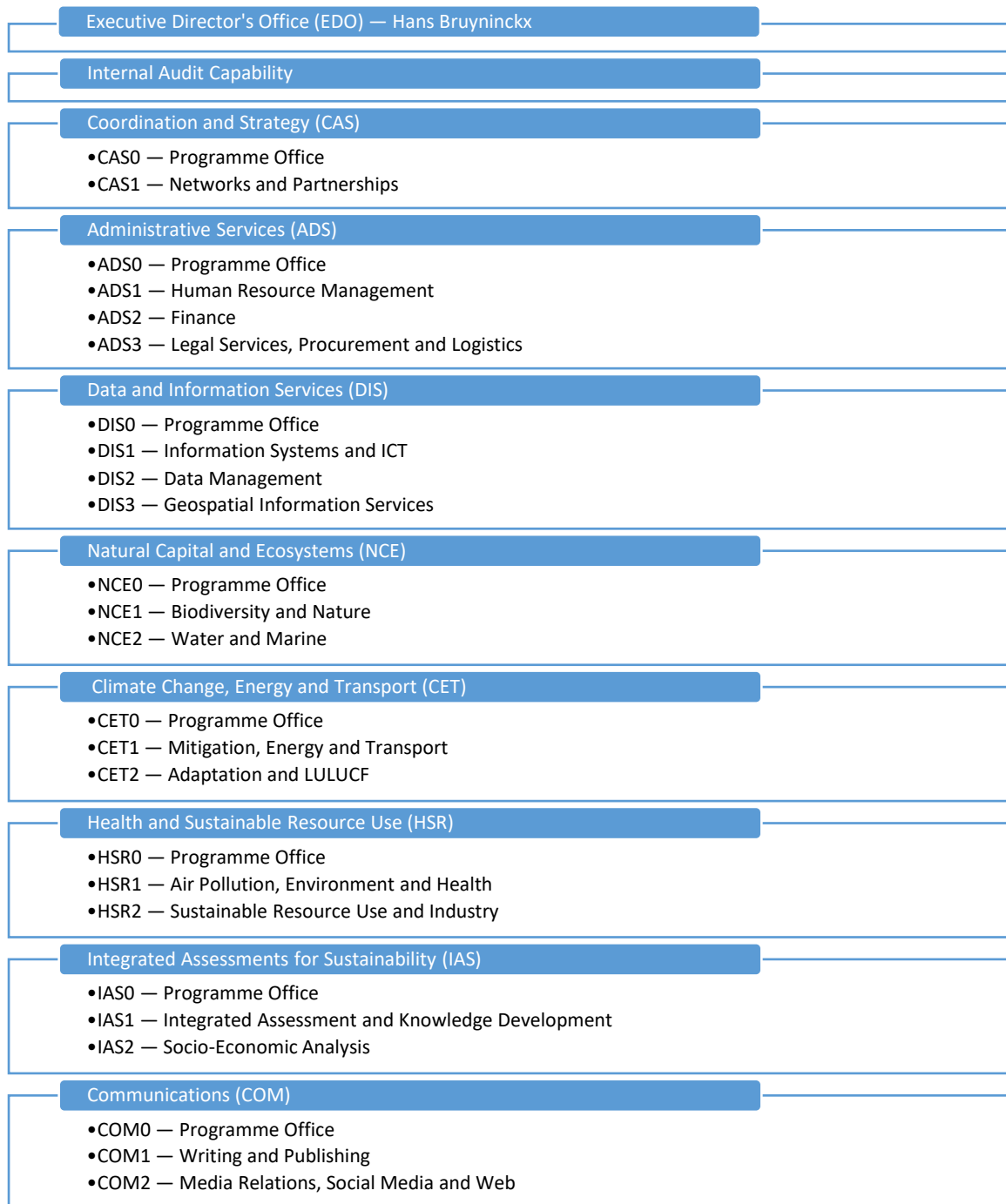
Article 41 of the EEA's Financial Regulation entitles the Director to delegate the powers of budget execution and for these to be sub-delegated. Powers to execute each type of expenditure is delegated to a Head of Programme, with the Head of Administration receiving delegation for all types of expenditure. Sub-delegation, limited to only the approval of payments for certain expenditure, is given to Heads of Group in the administration programme.

## ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The EEA's organisational structure includes three hierarchical levels:

- Executive Director's Office (EDO), led by the EEA Executive Director;
- eight programmes, led by Heads of Programme;
- 17 groups, led by Heads of Group.

See the organisational chart in Annex 3.



The organisation structure within the Executive Director's Office and the programmes is as follows:





## PART 1 ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR

Part 1 of this consolidated annual activity report (CAAR) for 2019 provides an overview of the achievements in 2019. It is structured around the Agency's four strategic areas (SAs), as set out in the EEA's multiannual work programme (MAWP) 2019-2021.

The achievements for 2019 are placed in the context of the multiannual goals, key objectives and performance indicators, and are reported in comparison with the performance indicators, key activities and expected outputs defined in the EEA's annual work programme 2019.

### 1.1 INFORMING POLICY IMPLEMENTATION (SA1)

#### **Key goals 2019**

- Provide updated publications addressing air quality (providing input on the fitness check on the ambient air quality directives, as appropriate) and noise in support of relevant legislation, and support countries in reporting respective data flows.
- Continue to support reporting by countries and companies, including streamlining of reporting and publishing of updated assessments in the field of industrial emissions, including providing support to new reporting under Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury.
- Support the implementation of the Energy Union Governance Regulation (including the absorption of additional resources) and the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation, in particular monitoring, reporting and evaluating progress made by Member States and the EU on decarbonisation (including renewable energy) and energy efficiency.
- Support the implementation of reporting of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from new passenger vehicles and vans and new legislation on CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring from heavy duty vehicles (HDVs).
- Carry out assessments on climate change impact, vulnerability and adaptation, and links to disaster risk reduction and improving the European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT), taking into account the outcomes of the 2018 evaluation of the EU climate change adaptation strategy and its mainstreaming into other EU policies.
- Support the implementation of new data flows under the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation, including the use of data from the Copernicus land monitoring service.
- Publish *Marine messages II* report, which will provide a concise integrated assessment of Europe's seas and an understanding of how Europe is striking a balance between using marine natural capital (blue growth) and securing ecosystem health and human well-being. Support activities under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)



reporting obligations and related information flows (WISE-Marine full operationalisation).

- Support the Water Framework Directive (WFD) evaluation process towards potential review, with particular emphasis on hydromorphology aspects.
- Process the third round of nature directives reporting obligations towards the *State of nature in the EU* report. Support ecosystems integrated assessment work and products towards the final evaluation of the biodiversity strategy to 2020.
- Provide interactive maps and viewers on land degradation and evolution of land and soil functions — based on assessment work for *The European environment — State and outlook 2020* report (SOER 2020).
- Prepare a consolidated knowledge base for waste, covering past trends and policy analysis in support of EU policies and the circular economy package.

## AIR POLLUTION, TRANSPORT AND NOISE (SA1.1)

### Objectives

- Update publications addressing air quality and noise in support of relevant legislation, including the annual *Air quality in Europe* report, an updated *Noise in Europe* assessment and support to SOER 2020.
- Maintain support to countries for the reporting of data flows.
- Further improve the accessibility of data for key stakeholders and the wider public.

### Expected result

Support and inform policy development and implementation in the areas of air pollution and noise by means of data, information/indicators and assessments.

### Performance indicators

Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
<b>Key</b>	Key reports/assessments	5	5
	Core set indicators	4	4
	Core data flows	3 <sup>(a)</sup>	3
	Eionet meetings	3	3
	Total	15 <sup>(b)</sup>	15
<b>Supporting</b>	Total	14	13



**Notes:** (a) Annual work programme states 6 when it should have been 3.

(b) Corrected total.

For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

### ***Highlights of 2019 (SA1.1)***

With the aim of increasing its relevance for key stakeholders including citizens, the European Air Quality Index — which displays up-to-date air quality information reported by countries — was improved in 2019 to include a new 24-hour forecast, based on modelled data produced by the Copernicus atmosphere monitoring service. Health messages on air pollution levels were also added at station locations. Both the updated index and the 2019 report on air quality in Europe were presented at the EU Clean Air Forum in Bratislava in November 2019.

Regarding air quality e-reporting, all 28 EU Member States and 38 of the 39 EEA member countries successfully reported their 2018 air quality data by the 30 September 2019 deadline, a significant improvement on previous years. Direct support was provided to the European Commission to support the fitness check of the two EU ambient air quality directives.

The EEA also engaged in an innovative partnership with members of the European Network of the Heads of Environment Protection Agencies (EPA Network) on citizen science for air quality. Titled CleanAir@School, the initiative raised awareness among pupils and parents of air pollution linked to vehicle emissions around schools in 10 European countries. Beyond communication by the national EPAs, the EEA assisted countries by helping coordinate activities, providing a web page on the initiative <sup>(11)</sup>, and will highlight project findings in a forthcoming report on the use of low-cost sensors to monitor air quality.

Regarding emissions to air, a new data viewer on policies and measures <sup>(PAMs)</sup> <sup>(12)</sup> under the National Emission Ceilings (NEC) Directive was launched in June, supporting Member States with their reporting of certain information in their national air pollution control programmes. The newly reported information was made publicly available via the dedicated data viewer. Core work involved producing the EU emission inventory under the United Nations Environment Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and assessing EU progress towards meeting the NEC Directive and reduction commitments.

Work on noise focused on producing the EEA's second report on noise in Europe, which was published in early 2020, as well as working with countries on the development of a new data and

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<sup>(11)</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/air/urban-air-quality/cleanair-at-school/cleanair-at-school>

<sup>(12)</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/dashboards/overview-of-compliant-air-pollution-policies>

information reporting model that is compliant with the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (Inspire) Directive.

Thematic assessments on air pollution and noise were published in SOER 2020.

## INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION (SA1.2)

### Objectives

- Support the Commission and EEA member countries in the implementation of reporting obligations under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) for industrial point sources and for new reporting under Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury.
- Support the reporting to the EU Registry on Industrial Sites and the integrated reporting on large combustion plants (LCPs) and the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR).
- Publish annual status reports on releases to the environment from industrial facilities and support SOER 2020.
- Further improve the accessibility of data for key stakeholders and the wider public.

### Expected result

Support and inform policy development and implementation in the area of emissions from industrial sources by means of data, information/indicators and assessments.

### Performance indicators

Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
<b>Key</b>	Core set indicators	1	1
	Core data flows	1	1
	Eionet meetings	1	1
	Total	3	3
<b>Supporting</b>	Total	10	10

**Note:** For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

### Highlights of 2019 (SA1.2)

After several years of detailed preparations with countries, the EU Registry on Industrial Sites — a new e-reporting process under the IED — was launched, and two reporting years of facility data were processed (2017 and 2018).

Alongside the registry, new reporting tools for two consolidated data flows, i.e. the E-PRTR and LCP inventories were launched. These data streams were also successfully reported by countries and subsequently compiled, quality assured and published by the EEA. The EEA and its member countries have made a significant effort to put these tools into use. Further support was provided to Member States and the European Commission by preparing reporting tools for four data flows, as provided by Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury, with testing and a subsequent launch of the new official data flow reporting at the end of 2019.

While data reporting was an important element in 2019, the EEA also consolidated its assessment activities around industry and the environment. Highlights included the publication of the thematic assessment of industrial pollution in SOER 2020, an assessment report on the effectiveness of EU policy on LCPs in reducing air pollutant emissions, and a briefing showcasing the usefulness of the E-PRTR for policymaking and public awareness. The EEA contributed these and other products to the European Commission's evaluation of the IED. Technical work developing a revised methodology to calculate external costs associated with industrial air emissions was completed and will be applied in 2020 to updated country data.

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## CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ENERGY (SA1.3)

### *Objectives*

- Follow up and support the implementation of the Paris Agreement and its 2018 Facilitative Dialogue, as well as the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.
- Support the monitoring, reporting and assessment of Member States' and the EU's greenhouse gas emissions and projections, as well as their climate change mitigation PAMs under the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation.
- Support company-based reporting on ozone depleting substances (ODS) and fluorinated greenhouse gases (F-gases).
- Support the implementation of the Energy Union Governance Regulation, including the e-reporting platform for post-2020 reporting on progress.
- Publish updated data sets relevant to climate change mitigation and energy (including on ODS and F-gases), as well as information on national PAMs.
- Publish updated assessments of progress towards short- and long-term climate change mitigation and energy and transport targets in Europe, and the role of climate and energy policies and socio-economic trends in achieving these.
- Publish updated assessments on transport and the environment (including the *Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism (TERM) report*).
- Support the implementation of reporting of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from passenger cars and vans, as well as the implementation of new data flows for the monitoring of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from new HDVs, and publish reported data sets.

### *Expected result*



Support and inform policy developments and implementation in the areas of climate change mitigation, energy and transport by means of data, information/indicators and assessments.

#### *Performance indicators*

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>No planned</b>	<b>No delivered</b>
<b>Key</b>	Key reports/assessments	11	10
	Core set indicators	10	10
	Core data flows	4	4
	Eionet meetings	2	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Supporting</b>	Total	12	8

**Note:** For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

### **Highlights of 2019 (SA1.3)**

#### ***Climate change mitigation***

The EEA continued to support Member States and the Commission in their activities related to the monitoring and reporting of climate-related data and information. The EEA also provided technical expertise to support the EU in international discussions on monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change meeting in Kyoto; the Conference of the Parties, COP 25 in Madrid).

The EEA supported the Commission during the European Court of Auditors' audit of the efforts of the Commission to ensure the quality of the EU greenhouse gas inventory. The audit concluded, inter alia, that the Commission, assisted by the EEA, verifies satisfactorily the reported emissions and that the EU greenhouse gas inventories have improved over time.

The EEA continued discussions with the European Commission to clarify its future tasks under the Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, as regards the decarbonisation and energy efficiency dimensions of the Energy Union.

The EEA also supported efforts to evaluate the effects of climate change mitigation policies and measures, including during the national reference centre (NRC) Eionet workshop on mitigation. A briefing showed the increasing number of climate policies in EU Member States, although evidence on the costs and effectiveness of existing policies remains insufficient.

The annual *Trends and projections* report was published, highlighting the significant drop in 2018 greenhouse gas emissions, together with the need for further efforts to achieve 2030 targets.

Four supporting outputs (briefings) were not completed in 2019; two are to be merged with other products and one will be published in 2020.

### **Energy**

The EEA published a briefing showing that EU efforts to double the share of renewable energy in its total consumption have significantly reduced the amount of fossil fuels used and their associated greenhouse gas emissions. However, in countries where biomass burning has increased considerably, emissions of certain air pollutants have also increased. The briefing was accompanied by an online data viewer including country profiles.

The EEA held its annual NRC Eionet workshop on environment and energy in May 2019.

### **Transport**

The first EEA assessment of the trends in the greenhouse gas intensity of transport fuels supplied in the EU showed fuel suppliers achieving insufficient progress towards their 2020 targets.

The EEA continued to support the monitoring and reporting of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from new cars and vans and published data showing an increasing trend in these emissions in 2018.

A briefing highlighted how well-designed financial incentives and taxes set by countries can encourage consumers to buy passenger cars with lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, in particular electric vehicles.

The second *European aviation environmental report* was published jointly by the EEA, the European Aviation Safety Agency and the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation (Eurocontrol).

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## CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS, VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION (SA1.4)

### **Objectives**

- Follow up and support the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- Support the monitoring, reporting and assessment of Member States' information on climate change adaptation under the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation and the Energy Union Governance Regulation.
- Publish updated indicators and assessments on climate change impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- Update, improve and enhance the use of Climate-ADAPT.
- Support the implementation of new data flows under the LULUCF Regulation, including use of data from the Copernicus land monitoring service.
- Further improve the accessibility of information for key stakeholders and the wider public.

*Expected result*

Support and inform policy development and implementation in the area of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation by means of data, information/indicators and assessments.

*Performance indicators*

Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
<b>Key</b>	Key reports/assessments	2	2
	Core set indicators	5	5
	Eionet meetings	1	1
	Total	8	8
<b>Supporting</b>	Total	9	9

**Note:** For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

***Highlights of 2019 (SA1.4)***

The EEA provided a range of products and services in 2019 supporting climate change adaptation strategies and actions at various governance levels, including the EU adaptation strategy, which was evaluated by the European Commission in 2018.

The EEA report *Adaptation challenges and opportunities for the European energy system* analyses the impacts of climate change on Europe’s energy system, now and in the future, and includes an overview of how EU energy policies address climate change adaptation and examples of feasible and successful adaptation actions. The report is very relevant to policies aimed at the transition to a climate-neutral Europe by 2050 and related national climate and energy plans, as well as national adaptation plans. The report was launched at the Policy Conference of the EU Sustainable Energy Week in Brussels.

The EEA report *Climate change adaptation in the agricultural sector in Europe* reviews the key climate change impacts facing agriculture in the EU and how EU policies address climate change adaptation, with examples of feasible and successful adaptation actions. It informs agriculture policies, including the revision of the common agricultural policy (CAP), as well as national adaptation plans.

Various updated indicators on climate change and impacts were published, and their key messages were reused in the EEA’s SOER 2020. The indicator on economic losses from climate-related extremes is specifically relevant in the context of developing EU policies and legislation on sustainable finance.



The EEA launched the fully updated Climate-ADAPT with enhanced functionalities in January 2019 and continued updating the content, including adding new case studies. All country pages were updated based on information reported by Member States under the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation.

The EEA continued to prepare for the future implementation of the LULUCF Regulation through a cross-EEA project. The use of data from the Copernicus land monitoring service was assessed, and a related expert meeting was held, bringing together national land monitoring and greenhouse gas inventory experts.

The annual Eionet workshop with experts from EEA member countries, the European Commission and international organisations discussed ongoing work and plans for 2019.

## WATER MANAGEMENT, RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEMS (SA1.5)

### Objectives

- Publish information on water and agriculture, and floodplain ecosystems, to support the 2018-2019 evaluation of the WFD and other directives and the Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV) and Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) Task Force on Water.
- Deliver contributions to the EEA's SOER 2020 and support the EU 2020 biodiversity strategy (specifically target 2/action 5).

### Expected result

Support and inform policy development and implementation in the areas of water management, water resources and ecosystems, and related cross-cutting issues (e.g. public health, climate change) by means of data, information/indicators and assessments.

### Performance indicators

Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
<b>Key</b>	Key reports/assessments	1	1
	Core set indicators	2	2
	Core data flows	4	4
	Eionet meetings	1	1
	Total	8	8
<b>Supporting</b>	Total	10	9

**Note:** For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

### **Highlights of 2019 (SA1.5)**

Key deliverables in 2019 included the coherent and integrated contributions on freshwater to SOER 2020 and the 2020 biodiversity strategy (in cooperation with the Joint Research Centre — JRC). The *European bathing water quality* report was successfully published for the 11th year in a row, together with country reports and data visualisation tools. The EEA's work on water quantity accounts delivered key outputs that strengthen the sharing of data and information on water resources in Europe.

The Water Information System for Europe (WISE) state of the environment (SoE) data call was supported by a series of webinars to help member countries prepare data. The indicators on oxygen-consuming substances in rivers and nutrients in freshwater were updated with the outcomes of the 2018 WISE-SoE data call.

The support given to policy processes was extensive in 2019. A decisive contribution was made to the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) evaluation, based on the EEA's work on urban waste water treatment (EEA Briefing 5/2019), and support was provided to the working group on chemicals and DG ENV's consultants. Support given to the WFD/Floods Directive fitness check and the common implementation strategy (CIS) process was also substantial, including the co-chairing of the working group on data and information sharing, and contributions at the strategic coordination group, the working group on Ecostat and a sub-group on hydromorphology.

The freshwater Eionet workshop was held jointly with the biodiversity NRCs and provided the opportunity to update member countries on the EEA's activities and focus on the synergies and cross-cutting topics between the two domains, such as restoration and ecosystem-based management.

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## MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT AND MARITIME ACTIVITIES (SA1.6)

### *Objectives*

- Finalise the 2019 *Marine messages II* assessment, contributing to the Commission's first evaluation report of the MSFD under Article 20.3.b, and the implementation of the wider policy context relevant to the sustainable use of Europe's seas.
- Deliver contributions to the EEA's SOER 2020 and support the EU 2020 biodiversity strategy (specifically target 2/action 5).

### *Expected result*

Support and inform policy development and implementation in the areas of marine and coastal environment and maritime activities by means of data, information/indicators and assessments.

### *Performance indicators*



Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
<b>Key</b>	Key reports/assessments	1	0
	Core set indicators	2	1
	Core data flows	3	3
	Eionet meetings	1	1
	Total	7	6
<b>Supporting</b>	Total	9	9

**Note:** For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

### **Highlights of 2019 (SA1.6)**

The key achievement of 2019 is the completion and full delivery of the 2016-2019 Marine Roadmap, which targeted the first MSFD implementation report, SOER 2020 and support given to the 2020 biodiversity strategy.

*Marine messages II* directly supports DG ENV's first MSFD implementation report, the publication of which (by the European Commission) was delayed and is now planned for Q2 2020, having a knock-on effect on the publication of *Marine messages II*, being postponed to November 2020 at the request of the European Commission. The extensive support provided to the management and visualisation of the 2018/2019 MSFD reported data, a series of dashboards and tools complements the support given to the implementation of the MSFD. In addition, coherent and integrated contributions on the marine environment and fisheries were made to SOER 2020. The support given to the 2020 biodiversity strategy, in cooperation with the JRC, has been effective. The above contributions have also benefited from the publication of an EEA report on eutrophication, four European Topic Centre on Inland, Coastal and Marine Waters (ETC/ICM) technical reports and eight indicators.

The support given to policy processes was extensive in 2019, for example the co-chairing of the working group on data, information and knowledge exchange and the technical group on data, and contributions to the working group on good environmental status, the technical group on marine litter, the technical group on noise and the Marine Strategy Coordination Group as well as Member States expert group meetings. Cooperation with the Copernicus marine environment monitoring service (CMEMS) and the European Maritime Safety Agency was significantly strengthened.

The marine Eionet workshop provided the opportunity to update member countries on the EEA's activities and consolidate the cooperation and involvement of Eionet and the NRCs in the EEA's marine work.



## BIODIVERSITY, ECOSYSTEMS, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS (SA1.7)

### Objectives

- Support reporting under the nature directives, prepare the 2020 *State of nature in Europe* report and support DG ENV's activities on the reporting of the EEA's integrated assessments for sustainability programme (IAS), which contributes to targets 1, 2, 3 and 5 of the final evaluation of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020, the action plan for nature, people and the economy and the SOER 2020 assessment (biodiversity, ecosystems, agriculture and forests).
- In further support of the final evaluation of the biodiversity strategy to 2020, update all streamlined European biodiversity indicators (SEBIs) (and related indicators), to provide ecosystem assessments, linking with ecosystem services, ecosystem accounts and work on planetary boundaries and cross-cutting work on agriculture and forests — all of this is the EEA's input into the final Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES) assessment.
- Develop, update and upgrade biodiversity-relevant information systems (e.g. the Biodiversity Information System for Europe, BISE; the European Nature Information System, EUNIS) to form dissemination and information management platforms for the final evaluation of the biodiversity strategy to 2020. With links to the integrated data platform, take into account advanced data and analytical work on land, forest, and agriculture and adaptation, support sectoral integration and ensure interoperability with other EEA and DG ENV financed information systems (WISE; Forest Information System for Europe, FISE; Climate-Adapt).

### Expected result

Support and inform policy development and implementation in the area of biodiversity and ecosystems (natural capital), including agriculture and forest ecosystems, by means of data, information/indicators and assessments.

### Performance indicators

Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
Key	Key reports/assessments	2	1
	Core set indicators	2	2
	Core data flows	6	6
	Eionet meetings	3	3
	Total		13



Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
Supporting	Total	19	19

Notes: For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

### Highlights of 2019 (SA1.7)

The Commission kicked off the evaluation of the biodiversity strategy to 2020 with a conference in May, at which the EEA contributed key elements, based on knowledge of the state and condition of Europe's biodiversity. The conference also featured the pan-European regional assessment under the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), to which the EEA had contributed. Throughout the year, the EEA continuously delivered targeted information in support of this evaluation, including the following:

- As a major milestone in the implementation of the Birds and the Habitats Directives, Member States reported their implementation reports on conservation status and pressures using the EEA's reporting tools. The new information is timely for the biodiversity strategy evaluation and will feed into the *State of nature in Europe* report to be published in 2020.
- The extensive work on protected areas, comprising the update of Natura 2000, the Common Database on Designated Areas (CDDA) and its pan-European extension (Emerald Network under the Bern Convention), have been updated and are easily accessible via the new Natura 2000 map viewer. In particular, the CDDA, as the official European input into the World Database of Protected Areas, helped to inform the global process on the achievement of Aichi Target 11 under the global strategic plan for biodiversity 2010-2020 under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- Finally, the EEA's SEBI were further updated with four more indicators, serving — together with the indicators updated in 2018 and the upcoming ones in 2020 — as a basis for the evaluation.

In the context of the EU MAES initiative, the EEA underpinned the condition assessments across all ecosystems with input from the recent nature reporting (under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive) and specific wider assessments on wetlands. These were presented at a high-level conference organised under the Finnish presidency in December.

An essential part of the work to support the evaluation of the biodiversity strategy 2020 was the information technology (IT) developments for BISE, as it is going to host all information on nature as well as ecosystem assessments (MAES) and will be re-launched during Green Week in June 2020.

For both forest and agriculture, the roadmaps for internal collaboration and collaboration with the European Commission have been further developed, including valuable work with newly established NRC networks and workshops in 2019. In cooperation with DG AGRI, the information from the

Habitats Directive could be developed into a draft impact indicator under CAP, currently under consultation. Forest work focused on the finalisation of FISE, launched in February 2020.

## URBAN, LAND USE AND SOIL (SA1.8)

### Objectives

- Develop and publish indicators for land system assessments and mapping relevant aspects of land degradation, based on the Copernicus land monitoring service, LUCAS (land use and coverage area frame survey) and other land-related data.
- Develop and publish phenology and vegetation productivity indicator sets, as well as develop soil functional assessments addressing soil-related ecosystem services supply — all in support of ecosystem assessment work.
- Assess land use in rural systems of Europe by combining land monitoring data with high nature value area mapping and available agricultural and forest and other socio-economic information, as relevant to the CAP, the EU forest strategy and the EU biodiversity strategy targets and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Similarly, assess the urban systems and the peri-urban systems and provide for finalising SOER 2020.

### Expected result

Support and inform policy development and implementation in the areas of urban, land use and soil by means of data, information/indicators and assessments.

### Performance indicators

Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
<b>Key</b>	Core set indicators	2	2
	Eionet meetings	1	1
	Total	3	3
<b>Supporting</b>	Total	6	6

**Note:** For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

### Highlights of 2019 (SA1.8)

Part 2 of the EEA's SOER 2020 contained a chapter on land and soil. This section presented the latest trends in land use change, an analysis of key land processes and a state-of-the-art overview of European soil condition. It also outlined a strategy for monitoring land dynamics and structures to

help ensure a consistent policy-relevant integrated assessment of the state of land and soil resources and support a wider societal transition to sustainability. Furthermore, it contributed to an integrated assessment of natural capital.

Two indicators of the EEA core set were updated; the indicator on land take included new data from Corine Land Cover (CLC) 2018, permitting updated analysis for inclusion in SOER 2020, such as progress towards the EU target of ‘no net land take by 2050’ and how landscape fragmentation pressure affects the stability and resilience of habitats. The published indicator extended the time trend to 2015 and provided information about the continued increase in landscape fragmentation, even though it was slower than previously recorded. The EEA also advanced a time series on the degree of imperviousness (soil sealing) and indicator proposals for the status of grasslands and land productivity that is relevant for SDG 15.3.

Work on soil featured an Eionet NRC meeting that confirmed the task force on soil monitoring and revitalised the working group on soil contamination. Close cooperation with European Commission services facilitated consolidation of the soil network and the preparation for an upcoming joint report on European soil condition. The EEA Signals 2019 edition, *Land and soil in Europe*, presented the reasons why we need to use these vital and finite resources sustainably.

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## WASTE AND MATERIAL RESOURCES (SA1.9)

### Objectives

- Produce an integrated assessment on waste and material resources as a contribution to SOER 2020, using indicators and outlooks that will simultaneously support EU policy initiatives on waste and the circular economy.
- Prepare an analysis of plastic waste to support the EEA’s activities on waste prevention, as provided under the Waste Framework Directive.
- Build EEA-Eionet capacities on waste, material resource efficiency and the circular economy in line with EU policy priorities.

### Expected result

Support and inform policy development and implementation in the area of waste and material resources by means of data, information/indicators and assessments, in close cooperation with Eurostat.

### Performance indicators

Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
Key	Key reports/assessments	1	1
	Core set indicators	3	3



Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
	Eionet meetings	1 <sup>(a)</sup>	1
	Total	5 <sup>(b)</sup>	5
<b>Supporting</b>	Total	5	5

Notes: <sup>(a)</sup> Annual work programme states 0 when it should have been 1.

<sup>(b)</sup> Corrected total.

For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

### **Highlights of 2019 (SA1.9)**

The EEA invested additional resources in SA1.9 in 2019, compared with previous years, reflecting increased demands from countries and the growing importance of waste-related files in the context of Europe's shift towards a more circular economy. A well-attended workshop of the NRC on waste took place in September 2019, with the specific objective of supporting Eionet countries with guidance as well as providing a space to exchange views, best practice, policy instruments and other ideas for improvement regarding waste management and prevention. Assessment capacities in this area were also strengthened with a report on plastic waste prevention published at the beginning of the year. In addition, two EEA briefings addressing different waste aspects were published in October: plastic waste trade and resource losses in waste management. A third briefing prepared in 2019 on construction and demolition was published in early 2020. The SOER 2020 thematic assessment of waste and resources in a circular economy was prepared and published.

The EEA also commissioned intensive work around the so-called waste 'early warning mechanism', a process that will advise countries and the European Commission on their progress towards attaining the targets of the Waste Framework Directive. An informal working group was established within the Eionet NRC on waste to give countries the opportunity to provide their views on the design of the new process.

The EEA has also been investing in reinforcing links with various stakeholders in the area of waste prevention in preparation for the 2020 biannual assessment of waste prevention policies, and it has agreed a methodology with the Eionet NRC on waste to support the future production of such reports.

## **1.2 ASSESSING SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES (SA2)**

### **Key goals 2019**

- Further support circular economy objectives through, for example, the circular economy status report, analysis of trends, the potential for synergies between related policy areas and priority knowledge gaps, and capacity building within Eionet.





- Publish an EEA report on environment, health and well-being in Europe, focusing on the relationships between where people live and their socio-economic status and exposure to environmental pressures and drawing on, inter alia, insights from the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative (HBM4EU) and the European Information Platform for Chemical Monitoring (IPCHEM).
- Publish the SOER 2020 integrated assessment report, covering trends, progress and outlooks across established environment and climate policy objectives alongside a system-based assessment of the challenges and prospects for achieving the EU sustainability objectives.
- Design and undertake a stakeholder process to reflect on the outcomes of the SOER 2020 integrated assessment as input to the SOER 2020 synthesis report *From knowledge to action*.
- Publish reports relevant to sustainability transitions that provide an understanding of drivers of change, underscoring the need for system transitions alongside an integrated overview of transition concepts, governance and practice and their relation to EU policies.
- Publish the first EEA report on the implications of demographic and technological changes in Europe for production and consumption patterns, their relevance for fiscal and finance systems and the prospects for supporting a transition to a green economy in Europe.

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## RESOURCE-EFFICIENT ECONOMY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (SA2.1)

### *Objectives*

- Analyse the links between the low-carbon and circular economy policy agendas, with a particular focus on the possible synergies and trade-offs between greenhouse gas emissions and circular economy approaches.
- Provide support to the circular economy action plan through assessments and stakeholder interactions.
- Provide support to SOER 2020 through an assessment of finance/fiscal sustainability in the light of expected demographic changes, innovations in artificial intelligence and their implications for consumption and production patterns in society.

### *Expected result*

Inform progress and identify opportunities to improve the environment in Europe, and indirectly in other regions of the world, in accordance with circular and green economy perspectives.



### Performance indicators

Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
Key	Key reports/assessments	2	2
	Total	2	2
Supporting	Total	9	8

**Note:** For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

### Highlights of 2019 (SA2.1)

In 2019, the EEA increased its assessment capacity in this very dynamic policy area, which is attracting increasing attention from policymakers at both European and member country levels. In connection with this, the fourth in a series of reports on the circular economy *Paving the way for a circular economy: Insights on status and potential* was published in October. Launched by the Executive Director at a Finnish presidency event on a sustainable circular economy, the report takes stock of trends in resource use and waste, the potential for transition to a circular economy and insights on emerging practices for monitoring progress.

A set of country profiles on resource efficiency policies in Europe, the *More from less* series, was published as an Eionet/ETC product. The accompanying report was prepared in 2019 for publication in early 2020. A briefing on the increasing environmental and climate pressures associated with textiles, as well as the need to develop improved circular business models in the sector, was finalised and published to coincide with a Group of Seven (G7) and EU presidency meeting in Paris in November 2019. Ongoing work on products around plastics, premature obsolescence of electronics and the linkages between resource use and climate mitigation is well advanced. These materials will be published during the course of 2020.

Intensive work to improve the metrics and indicators on the area of sustainable consumption, production and monitoring of the circular economy has been commissioned with the assistance of the ETC on Waste and Materials in a Green Economy (ETC/WMGE). This work will continue in 2020.

Sustainability transition has been placed at the forefront of the agenda of the new European Commission. The EEA report *Sustainability transition in Europe in the age of demographic and technological change* analyses two key drivers: (1) demographic and technological transitions, stressing their connections and influence on the key systems of production and consumption; and (2) the transition of public policies and finance, stressing the need for coherent integration of related policies.

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## ENVIRONMENT, HUMAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING (SA2.2)

### Objectives

- Analyse regional and socio-economic inequalities regarding exposure to environmental stressors, including chemicals, and access to health benefits from the environment, and publish an EEA report on environment, health and well-being.
- Provide support to initiatives to protect the environment, human health and well-being through, inter alia, analytical briefings, the HBM4EU and the IPCHEM.

*Expected result*

Provide data, information and assessments on environmental pressures on and risks to human health and well-being, and contribute to the development of a broader framing of environment and human health interactions (cross-cutting work across SA1.1, SA1.2, SA1.5 and SA2.2), including exposure analysis.

*Performance indicators*

Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
<b>Key</b>	Key reports/assessments	1	0
	Total	1	1
<b>Supporting</b>	Total	4	4

**Note:** For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

**Highlights of 2019 (SA2.2)**

The EEA report *Healthy environment, healthy lives: How the environment influences health and well-being in Europe* was finalised however publication has been postponed as a result of the COVID-19 crisis to late summer, with the hope that there will be more space in the media for uptake of the results.

to Q3 2020. The report consolidates evidence on how the environment influences our health and well-being and explores how social factors mediate this influence, including social deprivation, behaviours and shifting demographics.

As part of the EEA’s activities to co-create knowledge through partnerships with other organisations, it contributed chapters on chemicals and air pollution to the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe report *Environmental health inequalities in Europe — Second assessment report* <sup>(13)</sup>.

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<sup>(13)</sup> <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/325176/9789289054157-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

A further 2019 highlight was the publication of a briefing on per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) <sup>(14)</sup>, a group of very persistent chemicals that pose an emerging chemical risk in Europe.

Additional work on chemicals included delivering the EEA's responsibilities as leader of the knowledge hub under the Horizon 2020 HBM4EU. In particular, the EEA produced a number of communication products targeting citizens, including factsheets on priority chemicals <sup>(15)</sup> and video animations <sup>(16)</sup>.

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## MEGATRENDS AND TRANSITIONS (SA2.3)

### *Objectives*

- Further improve understanding of sustainability transitions towards long-term EU policy visions and objectives, such as the circular, low-carbon and bio-economies, especially in the light of global megatrends and other drivers of change, and publish synthesised assessments, especially considering impacts on resource use (nexus approach), policy-relevant emerging issues, risks and opportunities, synergies and trade-offs.
- Implement co-creation and co-production activities with Eionet and other stakeholders and partners in support of the SOER 2020 assessment and EU environment policy development.
- Further strengthen the NRC on forward-looking information services (FLIS) interactions to build good practice, knowledge and integrated assessments across the EEA countries, including links with the NRC for SoE.
- Further develop and strengthen collaboration processes on sustainability transitions.

### *Expected result*

- Measure, monitor and report on long-term trends and sustainability transitions based on established EU policy visions to 2050 and using appropriate foresight methods and key indicators.
- Enhance capacities and awareness among stakeholders, including Eionet, on the sustainability-based integrated assessment.

### *Performance indicators*

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<sup>(14)</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/human/chemicals/emerging-chemical-risks-in-europe>

<sup>(15)</sup> <https://www.hbm4eu.eu/result/factsheets/>

<sup>(16)</sup> <https://www.hbm4eu.eu/result/videos/>



Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
<b>Key</b>	Key reports/assessments	2	2
	Eionet meetings	1	1
	Total	3	3
<b>Supporting</b>	Total	3	2

**Note:** For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

### **Highlights of 2019 (SA2.3)**

In 2019, we made advances in improving the knowledge base on sustainability transitions and drivers of change.

The report *Sustainability transitions: Policy and practice* was published in September 2019 and was discussed at a policy workshop organised with the European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC) as part of a stakeholder interaction process for SOER 2020. The workshop was well attended, with three directors-general, four deputy directors-general, nine directors, the Head and Deputy Head of the EPSC and about 50 participants from 17 directorates-general.

The report *Drivers of change and their implications on the European environment — A systems-based overview* was consulted on by the Technical Advisory Board, Eionet and the Environment Knowledge Community (EKC) and was published in early 2020. The report focuses on the updates of the drivers of change and indicates the links to production and consumption systems and policymaking.

The FLIS horizon scanning process on emerging trends concluded the first cycle, and four prioritised emerging trends and rapid assessments were developed: synthetic biology, artificial meat, blockchain and delivery drones. Cooperation with the DG ENV horizon scanning process (FORENV) continues, and inputs for its process in 2020 were provided by the NRC FLIS by the end of the year. The EEA Scientific Committee will also be involved.

The annual NRC FLIS meeting provided ideas on four projects for FLIS implementation next year: (1) emerging trends; (2) links between foresight; (3) the SDGs and SoE; and (4) environment reference scenarios and social media foresight/case studies on society in green transitions.

## SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING (SA2.4)

### Objectives

- Publish the SOER 2020 integrated environment assessment while running a process of engagement of stakeholders and drafting the SOER 2020 synthesis report *Knowledge for action*.
- Further strengthen NRCs for SoE activities to support the development and publication of SOER 2020 (including cooperation with NRC FLIS).
- Further improve the knowledge base, approaches and integrated environment assessment for sustainability.
- Further develop the approaches and assessments of SDG interlinkages of relevance for environment policymaking.
- Continue to provide indicator-based inputs to support the monitoring and evaluation of the Seventh Environment Action Programme (7th EAP) and the Environmental Implementation Review.
- Improve the knowledge base and publish the assessment of Europe's environmental footprint in the context of planetary boundaries.

### Expected result

Keep under review the state of, trends in and prospects for the environment in Europe to inform and contribute to improved coherence of environmental and other strategies and policies, including SDGs, with improved, integrated knowledge and capacities.

### Performance indicators

Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
Key	Key reports/assessments	1	1
	Eionet meetings	1	1
	Total	2	2
Supporting	Total	12	11

**Note:** For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

### Highlights of 2019 (SA2.4)

The SOER 2020 *Knowledge for transition to a sustainable Europe* report was finalised and launched on 4 December in Brussels.



Three stakeholder interaction events were organised. The first was a policy workshop organised with EPSC, 'From words to action: How can EU policy drive sustainability transitions?'. The workshop was well attended, with three directors-general, four deputy directors-general, nine directors, the Head and Deputy Head of EPSC and about 50 participants from 17 directorates-general. The second event 'Knowledge for a sustainable XXI century' was organised in October 2019, together with the EEA Scientific Committee. Keynote speeches from the EEA, the DG for Research and Innovation (RTD) and the JRC and a broad attendance (EKC; DG for Regional and Urban Policy; DG for Mobility and Transport; DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries; DG for Energy; DG RTD Horizon Europe mission boards; European Parliamentary Research Service; European Food Safety Authority; European Academies' Science Advisory Council) provided for a good discussion. The third event was organised as a politically high-level working dinner after the SOER 2020 launch in December 2019.

A report on SDG interlinkages, *SDGs and the environment in the EU: A systems view to improve coherence*, was published on the Stockholm Environment Institute website. This work was developed to support the SOER 2020 assessment in Part 3. It exemplifies the advantages of the SDG interlinkages assessment for the benefit of the policy implementation. In addition, the EEA produced a cross-country analysis of environmental prioritisation in SDG implementation at country level, including the related institutional set-up and monitoring mechanisms in countries.

The EKC was consulted on a joint EEA/Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) draft report, *A safe operating space for Europe — Explorations based on planetary boundaries and environmental footprints*. Publication is planned for Q1 2020.

The annual NRCs for SoE meeting was held in April 2019 in Belgium and focused on 25 years of SoE reporting. Country fact sheets on the history and focus of SoE reporting were published on the EEA website.

Fifty-five EEA indicators were updated in 2019 (29 of which are core set indicators), progress was made on proposals for improving existing EEA indicators from 2020, and feedback was provided by the EEA to the EU SDG monitoring report 2019 and the EU SDG indicator set for the monitoring report 2020, led by Eurostat. The EEA indicator-based outcomes, in particular those in the EEA annual environmental indicator report series (2016-2018) <sup>(17)</sup>, were used as a basis for the European Commission monitoring and evaluation of the 7th EAP and the Environment Council conclusions that called upon the European Commission to present the Eighth EAP (8th EAP).

With regard to the *Environmental sustainability in cities* report, 10 draft assessments were concluded in 2019, as a basis for the 2020 report, including the conceptual and analytical framework documentation, a meta-analysis of urban sustainability enabling factors and eight nexus analyses (climate resilience, accessibility for all, health and well-being, food security, quality of life, clean energy, sustainable buildings, and closing the loop).

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<sup>(17)</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/airs>



On sustainable finance, during 2019 two key regulations under which the EEA has legal obligations were agreed politically: the Disclosure Regulation for financial services and the Taxonomy Regulation. Under the Taxonomy Regulation, the EEA has been allocated additional posts contributing to the work of the Platform on Sustainable Finance. During 2019, the EEA continued to contribute to the taxonomy work stream. Preparation for the Platform on Sustainable Finance is anticipated to start in 2020.





## 1.3 KNOWLEDGE CO-CREATION, SHARING AND USE (SA3)

### **Key goals 2019**

- Continue the strengthening of Eionet, inter alia, by enhancing links to relevant stakeholders and networks in the context of the EKC.
- In cooperation with Eionet and relevant European Commission DGs (DG ENV; DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, DG NEAR; DG for International Cooperation and Development, DG DEVCO, DG for Climate Action, DG CLIMA; DG RTD; and Eurostat) and building on the work of the EEA, continue to provide inputs to support the EU monitoring and review of the SDGs.
- Continue modernising the reporting infrastructure to support actions to streamline environmental reporting on tools and applications, i.e. Reportnet.
- Upgrade the IT tools for networking and data sharing in line with the European Interoperability Framework.
- Continue the implementation of externally funded activities under Copernicus and European Neighbourhood programmes, supporting the establishment of structures modelled in line with Eionet and Shared Environmental Information System for Europe (SEIS) concepts.
- Continue to implement the EEA communication framework, adapting to rapidly changing technologies, communication and dialogue channels.
- Improve EEA internal knowledge co-creation and sharing.

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### NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS (SA3.1)

#### *Objectives*

- Continue strengthening cooperation and communication within Eionet, between Eionet and the EEA and its Management Board and Scientific Committee, and with the EKC and other relevant stakeholders and networks.
- Continue building relations and partnerships beyond Eionet, including continuing to coordinate EPA Network activities by hosting the Secretariat and being a member of the network, as well as focusing on partnerships with business and the research community and citizen science.
- Within the EEA Framework for International Engagement, provide knowledge to and engage in international processes at the global and regional levels. This includes global processes within UN Environment and the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) as regional pan-European, Arctic and Mediterranean processes.

- Support the adaptation of relevant reporting frameworks to underpin the monitoring and review of the UN SDGs, in cooperation with Eionet, DG ENV, DG NEAR, DG CLIMA and Eurostat.
- Continue to develop and operationalise the EEAcademy, including regular lectures, summer and winter schools and other relevant activities.
- Support action 10 of the EU action plan on streamlining environmental reporting (streamline reporting and information management between the EU level and the international level).

*Expected result*

Improve the sharing of data, information, knowledge and assessments at European, national and global levels, together with Eionet, and broaden cooperation with stakeholders and networks beyond Eionet.

*Performance indicators*

Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
<b>Key</b>	Eionet meetings	3	3
	Total	3	3
<b>Supporting</b>	Total	8	7

**Note:** For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

**Highlights of 2019 (SA3.1)**

Cooperation between the EEA and Eionet remained close and active throughout 2019. Key items of discussion were the preparation and launch of SOER 2020, the emerging EEA/Eionet strategy and the Eionet modernisation process. EU developments and the importance of the environment and climate agendas following the appointment of the new European Commission were central to the EEA-Eionet dialogue.

The June national focal point (NFP)/Eionet meeting was held back-to-back with the EEA 25th anniversary celebrations and Management Board seminar on the next EEA/Eionet strategy. In this context, a discussion on Eionet modernisation was initiated by NFPs. A first draft outline of the Eionet modernisation process was prepared and shared with the countries in preparation for the October NFP/Eionet meeting. Following in-depth discussions on this issue at the October meeting, NFPs proposed establishing a dedicated working group on Eionet modernisation in early 2020.

Apart from the regular NFP/Eionet meetings, five webinars were held throughout 2019 on topics of major interest for the network, such as the Eionet response to the EEA/Eionet evaluation, the upcoming EEA/Eionet strategy, the Eionet modernisation process, Eionet core data flows, Reportnet

3.0 developments, the EEA’s contribution to the Copernicus programme, and the Eionet Portal and Planner.

Meetings outside Eionet included those engaging business partners in dialogue on relevant sector-specific reports and publications, for example textiles.

A guide to Eionet for new NFPs, NRCs and Agency staff, *The Eionet ABC*, was finalised and shared with the network in Q3 2019.

The development of tThe Eionet Portal, together with the revised Eionet Planner, was in close dialogue with a group of interested NFPs. The redesigned Eionet Portal was launched in June 2019, aligned with the EEA’s web style and including the ETC website: <https://www.eionet.europa.eu/>.

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## TECHNICAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT (SA3.2)

### *Objectives*

- Finalise the implementation of Reportnet 2.0.
- Lead on the implementation of Reportnet 3.0 in line with action 3 of the streamlining of reporting action plan to overhaul and modernise the reporting infrastructure in line with the European Interoperability Framework and the eGovernment action plan.
- Support the maintenance of and further improve the thematic information systems hosted by the EEA, i.e. for cross-cutting assessments and to make them accessible to a wider public audience.
- Operate and maintain the IT systems used by the EEA and Eionet to support their monitoring, data, information, assessment and reporting activities.
- Provide helpdesk support on internal and external IT software applications to stakeholders.

### *Expected result*

The EEA’s IT systems continually meet the needs of the organisation and stakeholders, enabling it to implement the 2019 work programme efficiently.

### *Performance indicators*

Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
Supporting	Total	4	4

**Note:** For details of outputs, see Annex 8.



### **Highlights of 2019 (SA3.2)**

During 2019, the EEA's websites saw an increase in traffic and managed more than 8.5 million sessions. 74 % of the traffic is attributed to the EEA main website, the other 26 % is attributed to the other websites that it manages.

The most visited websites in descending order are the EEA website (74 %), GEMET (General Multilingual Environmental Thesaurus) site (4.4 %), Air Quality Index site (4.4 %), Copernicus land monitoring service site (3.2 %), Climate-Adapt site (2.8 %) and EUNIS site (2.1 %).

Within the EEA website, the top three visited areas were the data, maps and indicators section (24 %), the topic sites (18.8 %) and publications (9.1 %).

The top three most downloaded data sets were the Copernicus EU-DEM digital elevation model, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from passenger cars and Air Quality e-Reporting (former AirBase). In total, more than 150 000 data sets were downloaded during 2019.

The software development of Reportnet 3.0, which had been prepared through scoping and feasibility studies leading up to a new system architecture, started in May. Work under two specific agreements was concluded during the year and led to the launch of the first beta version of the platform in late September.

Reportnet 2.0 has been finalised; components such as the reporting obligations database (ROD) were modernised to serve the Reportnet 3.0 architecture. System scalability has been enhanced and security improved.

The EEA is hosting an increasing number of 'co-owned information systems' (Climate-ADAPT, WISE, BISE and E-PRTR). With development and maintenance costs increasing, it has been investing in a modular architecture among these different information platforms and is working to improve the governance of them.

To improve collaboration with and within Eionet, the EEA started the modernisation of the Eionet Portal in 2018. This work has now been concluded and the new portal has been launched.

The EU General Data Protection Regulation came into effect in December 2018. The EEA has implemented the required changes on all of its websites, as a part of its software quality strategy. This includes privacy statements, the elimination of third-party cookies and encryption of communication.

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## **MONITORING, DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (SA3.3)**

### **Objectives**

- Support the actions of the EU action plan on streamlining environmental reporting (see Annex 7):
  - action 1: making legislative amendments to reporting obligations defined in selected pieces of legislation;

- action 2: accessing and changing reporting obligations in more detail, as part of a rolling programme;
  - action 4: developing and testing tools for data harvesting at EU level;
  - action 5: developing guidance and promoting best practices for European and national information systems, including better access to data;
  - action 6: promoting the full implementation of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (Inspire) Directive with priority geospatial data sets that are most relevant to the implementation and reporting of EU environmental legislation;
  - action 7: making better use of data generated through the Copernicus programme, i.e. to support SOER 2020;
  - action 8: promoting the wider use of data gathered in other actions for the benefit of the environment and climate actions;
  - action 9: improving cooperation in sharing and using data gathered in other areas for the benefit of the environment, including the further development of the EKC data centres.
- Manage the increasing number of data and information services handled by the EEA and Eionet and improve the efficiency of existing data flows, QA/QC processes, indicator management and map and graph production.
  - Maintain the ROD.
  - Facilitate connections between Copernicus and the Group on Earth Observations(GEO)/Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) through EuroGEOSS (the European component of GEOSS), especially in the domain of data sharing and coordination of *in situ* observing networks.

*Expected result*

Ensure the availability, quality, accessibility and sustainability of monitoring, data and information needed for the knowledge base and supporting environment and climate policies.

*Performance indicators*

Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
Supporting	Total	3	3

**Note:** For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

**Highlights of 2019 (SA3.3)**



During 2019, the EEA published, on its website (<https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps>), 42 updated European data sets, 243 interactive maps and data viewers, 148 maps and graphs and 57 updated indicators, 29 of which form the EEA core set of indicators.

The EU Open Data Portal <sup>(18)</sup> was updated with the metadata of this new data published by the EEA. The EEA web map servers — Discover Map Services <sup>(19)</sup> — received more than 375 million requests — a 25 % increase since 2018.

The automated data flow monitoring of Eionet core data flows is updated on a daily basis (<https://www.eionet.europa.eu/dataflows/2019>). Overall, performance scoring grew, compared with 2018, by 3 % to 92 % for the 28 EU Member States, by 6 % to 92 % for the 33 EEA member countries and by 5 % to an overall 88 % for the 39 Eionet countries.

The best performing countries in 2019 with a data flow score of 100 % were Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Ireland, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden.

The EEA continued to support the EU action plan on streamlining reporting, in which most actions are expected to merge in 2020 with other ‘Green Deal for Europe’ activities. The EEA leads the Task Force on the Future of the Environmental Data Centres, as part of the EKC, which will also be reorganised to fit this wider policy frame. Joint projects responding to the actions on data harvesting and national information systems were finalised; other activities are ongoing, such as the Reportnet developments and promoting increased use of Copernicus.

The EEA continued to support the European Commission with the implementation of the Inspire Directive. The focus of the work was supporting spatially enabled data flows in the area of commonly designated areas (CDDA), industry emissions (IED) and noise (European Noise Directive).

The EEA ran an update project on the ROD in late 2019 and is preparing a dedicated project to improve *in situ* and satellite data connectivity in support of GEO/GEOSS, which will start in 2020.

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## COMMUNICATION, OUTREACH AND USER ANALYSIS (SA3.4)

### *Objectives*

- Engage with stakeholders through outreach and dialogue.
- Improve website usability.
- Produce print and online products and prepare and implement launch and outreach activities for SOER 2020.
- Implement outreach activities for key highlights of 2019.
- Roll out activities related to the 25th anniversary of the EEA.

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<sup>(18)</sup> <https://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data/publisher/eea>

<sup>(19)</sup> <http://discomap.eea.europa.eu/Index/>



### Expected result

Inform key stakeholders and other users of EEA outputs about key messages and corporate communications, and engage in dialogue with them.

### Performance indicators

Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
Key	Key reports/assessments	1	1
	Eionet meetings	2	2
	Total	3	3
Supporting	Total	12	12

**Note:** For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

### Highlights of 2019 (SA3.4)

SOER 2020 was successfully launched at the Council of the European Union in December 2019, followed by a press conference with Vice-President Timmermans and Commissioner Sinkevičius on 5 December. Outreach was built on close collaboration and targeted, under-embargo dissemination, including specific webinars and a communication toolkit (press release, infographics, videos, photos from the Sustainably Yours photo competition and a new corporate video), which were shared in advance with key partners in Eionet, EU institutions and NGOs and with journalists. This approach, complemented by the innovative design, resulted in unprecedented uptake and outreach. In its first week, SOER 2020 boasted over 6 000 media and social media entries, boosted by coverage in leading global and national news outlets, especially in Belgium, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States. Many policy stakeholders referred to SOER 2020 as the main evidence underpinning the European Green Deal proposal. Outreach will continue in 2020, in particular on social media and through events in member countries.

Corporate communication highlights included the EEA 25th anniversary celebration event in June 2019, which brought together a wide network of partners, and an innovative 25th anniversary publication <sup>(20)</sup>. Active efforts to connect with new policy stakeholders in the European Parliament and Commission included an EEA snapshot briefing *Knowledge for a sustainable Europe* <sup>(21)</sup>, presentations, welcome letters and bilateral meetings. The Executive Director's editorials in the quarterly EEA

<sup>(20)</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/european-environment-agency-1994-2019>

<sup>(21)</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/eea-snapshot>



newsletters, for example on sustainability and an equitable society and the European Green Deal and opportunities, continued to profile the Agency's role in and work on key policy and public debates.

Innovation efforts focused particularly on enhanced data visualisation and visual storytelling elements in SOER 2020, the EEA snapshot briefing, the EEA 25th anniversary book and improvements in web visuals.

Other thematic communication and outreach highlights in 2019 included:

- a high-level launch event for the EEA report *Social vulnerability to air pollution, noise and extreme temperatures in Europe* in Brussels with Commissioner Vella;
- EEA Signals *Land and soil in Europe* <sup>(22)</sup>;
- press workshops on SOER 2020 (Brussels and Copenhagen) and air quality and sustainable transport, and a visit by Czech journalists to the EEA;
- Facebook live events, each attracting thousands of viewers, on the EEA's work in areas such as Copernicus land monitoring, human biomonitoring, chemicals and health, climate change impacts and agriculture, land and soil, and electric vehicles;
- eight exhibitions, from Green Week to the Clean Air Forum in Bratislava and the WHO Health workshop in Bonn.

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## QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL SERVICES (SA3.5)

### Objectives

- Manage, evaluate and improve the EEA's processes and risk management and ensure a total quality management approach to the EEA's work.
- Operate the EEA's IT infrastructure, including hardware for computing, storage and backups, internal and external cloud-based services and applications, software licences and administration of the EEA's internal, networking and public IT systems.
- Provide helpdesk services covering all internal systems, hardware, telephony and internet access.
- Maintain the appropriate level of information and IT security in close cooperation with CERT-EU.
- Reduce the environmental impacts of the EEA's operational services through the implementation of the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS).

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<sup>(22)</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/eea-signals-2019-land>



*Expected result*

Provide high-quality operational support to the running of the EEA, including quality management, process improvement and environmental performance management.

*Performance indicators*

Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
Supporting	Total	7	7

**Note:** For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

**Highlights of 2019 (SA3.5)**

In 2019, significant quality improvements focused on integrated risk management, with the roll-out of an integrated procedure on risk management and associated annual planning cycle tools and training. This resulted in earlier identification of emerging risks and improved handling of risks as part of the annual management cycle. Quarterly key performance indicators (KPIs) were also introduced, with a view to adopting a supporting procedure in 2020. New procedures on the Eionet Planner and Portal were introduced, and a new procedure on ETC open science publications was piloted.

The EMAS highlight include the hosting of the 13th annual Greening Network Meeting, which brought together EU bodies and institutions to share best practices and promote EMAS to agencies that are not yet certified. Focus was given to waste reduction and management at local and EU levels, highlighting the scope of work carried out by the EEA and how the EEA as an organisation is living up to its own standards to continuously improve environmental performance. The EEA can look back on 14 years of EMAS implementation and the data show a positive trend from monitoring to optimising and reducing direct environmental aspects, ranging from paper consumption to the travel activities of staff and meeting participants. Yet, more effort and attention needs to be given in relation to reporting emissions from travel.

As an example of our environmental management programme setting targets and performance indicators across our direct and indirect environmental aspects, the EEA met the target of a 5 % reduction in externally printed publications, based on the 5-year average.

The EEA was successfully recertified by the competent body under EMAS for another year, in line with the annual re-certification process.

The modernisation of IT services is still ongoing. In particular, the Windows 10 roll-out continued and will be finished in 2020. Emphasis was put on assuring updated system architecture and operations documentation and improving the governance of the IT systems. Training videos on conference tools and Microsoft Teams were produced.

## COPERNICUS OPERATIONAL SERVICES <sup>(23)</sup> (SA3.6)

### Objectives

- Implement the land monitoring service to provide information in support of the global-to-local environmental monitoring of land cover and land use change, biodiversity, soil, water, forests and natural resources, and the implementation of the SDGs.
- Use Copernicus services relevant to EEA and Eionet activities, i.e. SOER 2020.
- Support coordination and harmonisation of the collection and provision of *in situ* and reference data for the operational services.

### Expected result

- Provide regular updated data and information services from the Copernicus land monitoring service.
- Coordinate the Copernicus in situ component across services.

### Performance indicators

Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
<b>Key</b>	Eionet meetings	3	3
	Total	1	1
<b>Supporting</b>	Total	3	3

**Note:** For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

### Highlights of 2019 (SA3.6)

#### **Copernicus land monitoring service**

A complete pan-European CLC 2018 mosaic, including the 2012-2018 change layer, was created and published on the Copernicus land portal.

The public procurement for CLC backbone production was finalised and the preparations for CLC core production entered the final phase.

High-resolution layer (HRL) production for the 2018 reference year (except for HRL Small woody features) was kicked off, and the first operational results from HRL Small woody features production for the 2015 reference year became publicly available.

<sup>(23)</sup> Copernicus operational services are covered and funded by a delegation agreement between the EU and the EEA.

A full update of Urban Atlas 2012 was completed, and the production of the Urban Atlas update for the 2018 reference year was begun. The latest product in the suite, Building heights, was extended to also provide building height information in the six Western Balkan countries and Turkey.

A new version of Riparian Zones for the 2012 reference year was released, and the mapping of the 2018 layer was begun.

The mapping of Natura 2000 grassland sites was completed for the 2006 and 2012 reference years, and the public procurement of the 2018 update was started.

The preparatory phase of the coastal zone monitoring service was finalised, and the production of the data sets was begun.

Public procurement of the first part of high-resolution (HR) snow and ice service production was finalised, and the preparatory phase of the service has now started. Public procurement of the second part of HR snow and ice service production was started.

Public procurement of HR phenology and productivity products was finalised, with production scheduled to start in 2020.

The draft technical specifications and implementation plan of the European ground motion service were produced.

European HR and VHR image mosaic and pan-European reference data sets were maintained and updated by the EEA.

### ***Copernicus in situ coordination***

The focus continued to be on (1) creating an overview of the Copernicus in situ component, (2) raising awareness, (3) improving data access, and (4) establishing partnership agreements.

The initial population of the Copernicus in situ component information system was completed and provided a comprehensive overview of all Copernicus services' *in situ* data requirements, *in situ* data used and data providers.

Two issues of the In situ newsletter were released.

DG DEVCO continued to serve as an entry point for Copernicus services to the national and regional geospatial reference data. The operational provision of the near-real-time air quality observations to Copernicus services was ensured.

Work with the countries that have signed a cooperation arrangement with the European Commission continued.



## CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE WESTERN BALKAN AND EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNTRIES <sup>(24)</sup> (SA3.7)

### Objectives

- Further develop EEA cooperation with the Western Balkan countries via different thematic activities, data delivery and success stories over the years, with a view to developing and implementing a roadmap for further integration.
- Further support SEIS implementation and cooperation with partner countries in the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) in the East and South regions to improve the quality of and access to environmental information and good environmental governance.

### Expected result

Improve the knowledge base for environment policy in the pan-European area and the Mediterranean, based on SEIS principles.

### Performance indicators

Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
Supporting	Total	10	8

Note: For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

### Highlights of 2019 (SA3.7)

Cooperation with the six Western Balkan countries saw a new momentum in 2019, following EU efforts to pursue closer ties with the region and building on the countries' earlier commitment to enhance cooperation with the Agency. A series of discussions with the Western Balkan partners and the Commission services were held to strengthen cooperation. The EEA Management Board endorsed this approach during the March meeting and noted the need for additional resources to help strengthen capacity building in the six Western Balkan countries. At the June meeting, the Management Board agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding with each of the six Western Balkan countries and allow them to have observer status at the EEA Management Board meetings. The support from the Commission resulted in the signing of a new Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) project with an increased budget, mainly in support of the thematic and network activities in the countries.

<sup>(24)</sup> Work in this area is covered by grant agreements between the European Commission and the EEA.

In connection with the 25th anniversary of the EEA and Eionet, the key developments and achievements during 20 years of cooperation with the region were summarised in a dedicated publication <sup>(25)</sup>.

The implementation of cooperation with partner countries in the Eastern Partnership and Southern Mediterranean under the SEIS continued as planned, with a view to bringing these externally funded projects to an end in summer 2020. The sharing of EEA and Eionet experiences and methodologies with ENI partners in dealing with environmental data and information has resulted in the development of several successful examples of developing indicators and information system nodes on water, air quality and land cover, and aggregating information in integrated environmental assessments.

Future EEA engagement with the neighbourhood partners will be aligned to the upcoming EEA/Eionet strategy 2021-2030 and linked to the EEA's role on Green Deal-related issues in the neighbourhood regions under the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) as of 2021.

## 1.4 EEA MANAGEMENT (SA4)

### **Key goals 2019**

- Track and contribute to the Commission-led process to evaluate and propose changes to the EEA/Eionet Regulation and clarify impacts on the timing and substance of the EEA's multiannual programming (mandate, tasks, budgetary and staff resources).
- Revise the EEA Financial Regulation, following the update of the Framework Financial Regulation.

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### GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (SA4.1)

#### *Objectives*

- EEA governance: provide efficient support to the Management Board, Bureau and Scientific Committee to ensure that they are well informed in their decision-making and respective advisory duties.
- EEA staff management: manage EEA staff by ensuring the setting of objectives and professional development, and motivate staff and inspire excellence in delivering the EEA management plan; this is framed by the EEA career development cycle and the learning and development framework.
- Internal audit and control (internal audit capability, IAC): deliver on all IAC activities included in the annual internal audit plan for the IAC, in line with the internal audit

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<sup>(25)</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/western-balkan-countries>

charter for the IAC, and ensure the implementation of the Agency’s internal control framework.

- Strategic programming and reporting: draft the multiannual and annual programming documents for the Agency, taking into account the overall legal, policy and resource context for the Agency, and report on the delivery of the EEA annual work programme in the CAAR for 2018.
- Work programme delivery: manage the EEA, to deliver the annual work programme; including the management and coordination of the ETCs.
- External evaluation: follow up on the outcomes of the Commission’s (Better Regulation) evaluation of the EEA and Eionet.

*Expected result*

Sustain and strengthen cooperation with main stakeholders and others, such as the Commission and European Parliament and member countries, to deliver the annual work programme.

*Performance indicators*

Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
<b>Key</b>	Eionet meetings	7	7
	Total	7	7
<b>Supporting</b>	Total	7	7

**Note:** For details of outputs, see Annex 8.

**Highlights of 2019 (SA4.1)**

Scientific Committee members continued providing input to the EEA on core topics, by attending EEA meetings, representing the EEA at external events and reviewing EEA publications relevant to their individual expertise. The Scientific Committee also contributed to a scientific journal article on environmental justice, which is to be published in 2020. Throughout 2019, the Committee also contributed to reviews of and improvements to the SOER 2020 integrated assessment report as well as EEA planning for outreach activities throughout 2020. In addition to issuing the two opinions on recruitment and the work programme required by the EEA Regulation, the Scientific Committee issued an opinion on the EEA evaluation.

The EEAcademy held one winter school on integrated environmental assessment in January 2019 in Copenhagen and two summer schools, one on sustainability transition and the precautionary principle and one on integrated environmental assessment in June 2019 in Budapest and in August 2019 in Copenhagen, respectively. Furthermore, an e-learning course on integrated assessment was launched for use by Eionet and other experts worldwide.

In 2019, three Management Board meetings were organised. The Management Board seminar in June 2019 focused on aspects of relevance for the development of the EEA/Eionet strategy 2021-2030 and included the participation of the Eionet NFPs as well as the ETC managers. In December 2019, Management Board members were invited to attend the official launch of the Agency’s SOER 2020 at the Commission’s premises in Brussels.

The Bureau convened five times; two of the meetings were held as videoconferences.

In 2019, two subgroups of the EEA Management Board were active. The working group on the EEA/Eionet evaluation assisted the Management Board with the drafting of its response to the Commission’s evaluation of the EEA and Eionet. The Advisory Committee on the EEA/Eionet strategy advised the Executive Director and reported to the Management Board on issues of a strategic nature in relation to the development of the EEA/Eionet strategy 2021-2030. Each of them convened twice.

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## ADMINISTRATION (SA4.2)

### *Objectives*

Provide high-quality administrative support to the running of the EEA.

### *Expected result*

The successful delivery of administrative support should be demonstrated through timely delivery of all statutory reporting, effective execution of the EEA’s budget, timely recruitment and full use of its establishment table, efficient procurement, good-quality facilities management, and good results in audits on administrative controls, compliance and sound financial management.

### *Performance indicators*

Activities	Outputs	No planned	No delivered
Supporting	Total	8	8

### **Highlights of 2019 (SA4.2)**

An activity-based working pilot was initiated, involving the administration programme staff, with the objective of creating an attractive working environment that facilitates collaboration and flexible working conditions to respond to the needs expressed in several staff engagement surveys. This involved reconfiguring the office space to create an activity-zoned open plan office, investing in suitable IT software and hardware and engaging staff in new ways of working. Another benefit of the pilot is that it resulted in a more efficient use of office space, which in turn has created space for the additional staff being recruited for the EEA’s new tasks supporting the Green Deal.



The use of electronic signatures was introduced in 2019, and they are being used for contract documents, allowing paperless administration of the full value chain from ordering to payment for goods and services.

## 1.5 EEA KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2019

The 17 multiannual KPIs shown in the table below allow analysis of actual **input** (in terms of budget and staff) and **output** (key products) against agreed targets, as well as **uptake** (in terms of visibility, web traffic, data use and user satisfaction).

No	Programme	KPI	Baseline (year)	Target	2019 realisation
1	ADS	<b>Staff occupancy rate</b> — realised staff resources in annual establishment plan	99 % (2016)	Min. 95 %	96.7 %
2	ADS	<b>Budget execution</b> — rate of annual budgetary commitments	99.9 % (2016)	Min. 98 %	100 %
3	ADS	<b>Budget execution</b> — cancellation rate of payment appropriations in year <i>N</i> - 1 (unused carryover)	0.1 %	Max. 2 % of core budget	0.5 %
4	ADS	<b>Budget execution</b> — payments executed within legal/contractual deadline (%)	99.4 % (2017)	100 %	99.5 %
5	COM	<b>Reports/assessments</b> — delivery rate of key reports/assessments (%) as planned in the annual work programme	(2019) <sup>(a)</sup>	Min. 90 %	93.1 % <sup>(b)</sup>
6	IAS	<b>Indicators</b> — share of core set indicators updated as planned in the annual work programme (%)	—	Min. 90 %	96 %
7	DIS	<b>Data flows</b> — annual performance for Eionet core data flows	86 % (2017)	90 % by 2018	92 % <sup>(c)</sup>
8	COM	<b>Media visibility</b> — articles with reference to EEA (No)	13 800 (2017)	Stable/increase	14 152 <sup>(d)</sup>
9	COM	<b>Followers on social media</b> (No)	97 000 (2017)	Stable/increase	114 046
10	COM	<b>Web traffic</b> — registered sessions on the EEA website (No)	4 400 000 (2017)	Stable/increase	6 345 995





11	DIS	<b>Downloads</b> — registered use of map services (No) ('Machine to machine' traffic)	175 000 000 (2017)	Stable/increase	375 218 782
12	ADS	<b>Stakeholder interaction</b> — delivery rate of planned Eionet meetings	—	90 %	95 %
13	CAS	<b>Stakeholder interaction</b> — average participant satisfaction rating	—	80 %	95 %
14	ADS	<b>Staff satisfaction</b> — average favourable rate for common items for agencies (%)	67 % (2017)	—	61 %
15	ADS	<b>Learning</b> — average registered time for learning and development (days)	6.4	7	4.11
16	ADS	<b>Absence</b> — annual average short-term sick leave (days)	10.4	Stable/decrease	9.7
17	EDO	<b>Audit compliance</b> — rate (%) of European Court of Auditors recommendations implemented (with deadline in current year)	75 % (2017)	—	80 % <sup>(e)</sup>

**Notes:**

<sup>(a)</sup> The category 'key assessment' was only introduced in 2019, which thus becomes the baseline year for this KPI.

<sup>(b)</sup> Includes six key assessments that were finalised and sent to production but not yet published by the end of the year.

<sup>(c)</sup> Median for the 28 EU Member States and the 33 EEA member countries, based on the evaluation of six data flows.

<sup>(d)</sup> Includes a large number of articles generated by the SOER 2020 launch.

<sup>(e)</sup> In total, four out of five recommendations indicated in the follow-up tables from previous years are now closed.



## PART 2A MANAGEMENT

### 2.1 MANAGEMENT BOARD

#### MANAGEMENT BOARD'S DISCHARGE OF ITS GOVERNANCE ROLE

During 2019, the EEA governance bodies — the Management Board and Bureau — adopted all statutory documents, as set out in the applicable rules and regulations, including those on the work programme and budget.

The Management Board's overall oversight role was further ensured through the regular reports received at Board and Bureau meetings from the Executive Director on the EEA's activities and budget implementation and from the internal audit capability (IAC) on internal and external audits, and follow-up on recommendations.

The Management Board discharged its duties as appointing authority for the Agency's Executive Director, including the Executive Director's performance evaluation.

#### ***Governance decisions***

Three out of the 17 Management Board decisions were adopted by written procedure, covering the revised financial rules applicable to the EEA budget, an amendment to the 2019 budget and an amendment to the 2019 procurement plan. The Board further decided to delegate to the Bureau the adoption of the draft Single Programming Document (SPD) 2021-2023 in January 2020.

Following delegation of power from the Board, the Bureau made six decisions. These were on (1) the adoption of the draft SPD 2020-2022 for transmission to the EU institutions; (2) the adoption of three sets of implementing rules to the Staff Regulation; (3) the adoption of the consolidated annual activity report (CAAR) 2018 for transmission to the EU institutions and the European Court of Auditors (ECA); and (4) an amendment to the EEA procurement plan for 2019.

The Chair of the Management Board adopted one decision related to the appointment of members to the Management Board Advisory Committee in relation to the development of the EEA and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet) strategy for the period 2021-2030, following the delegation of power from the Board.

#### ***Meetings***

Information on the meetings of the EEA Management Board and Bureau, as well as those of the Board's subgroups, is included in Part 1, Section 4.1 of this document.



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## FUNCTIONING OF BOARD AND BUREAU: STREAMLINING THE BOARD AND BUREAU'S WORKING METHODS

Following the internal review of the Board and Bureau in 2019, the governance bodies implemented during 2020 the endorsed approach for streamlining the Board and Bureau's working methods. This resulted in the following key changes in 2019, compared with 2018:

- More explicit use of the Bureau for the preparation of Board meetings:  
In 2020, the Bureau convened back to back with each of the Board's plenary meetings to pre-assess information in preparation for strategic Board discussions and to prepare for Board decisions. This included recommendations to the Board on decisions required, such as on the opinion on the final accounts, the IAC annual activity report, and a revision of the EEA publication plan and guidance towards strategic discussions.
- For shorter meetings of the Bureau, the use of videoconferencing was introduced.
- There was increased delegation of power to the Bureau for the adoption of administrative/executive decisions (ad hoc or permanent delegation), such as the adoption of the implementing rules to the Staff Regulation and amendments to the EEA procurement plan.

The streamlined working methods and the differentiation of roles for the Board and Bureau had the following impact in 2019:

- shorter and more targeted plenary meetings of the Bureau (back to back with those of the Board);
- increased strategic nature of Board meetings;
- significant reduction in the number of governance background documents to be prepared by the EEA (approximate reduction of 50 %);
- increased workload and decision-making power of the Bureau;
- additional Bureau videoconference meetings for matters needing to be addressed in between Board meetings;
- reduced travel to Copenhagen for Bureau members.

The revision of the Rules of Procedure applicable to the EEA Management Board and Bureau following the streamlining exercise was postponed until 2020 because of the delayed adoption of the revised EEA Financial Regulation, taking into account the revision of the EU Framework Financial Regulation.



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## STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT BOARD'S RESPONSE TO THE COMMISSION'S EVALUATION OF THE EEA AND EIONET

Following the Commission's evaluation of the EEA and Eionet <sup>(26)</sup>, the EEA Management Board adopted a formal response to this external evaluation.

In parallel, the Board started with the implementation of its commitments formulated in the formal response, in particular through the development of a strategy for the EEA and Eionet, covering the period 2021-2030.

### **Formal Management Board response**

Following the Commission's evaluation of the EEA and Eionet <sup>(27)</sup>, the EEA Management Board adopted a formal response in June 2019 <sup>(28)</sup>.

This response was drafted against the background of the external *ex post* evaluation of the EEA and Eionet, and in the light of the Commission's proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027. The EEA Management Board decided on the following key forward-looking conclusions and recommendations on six aspects of particular relevance to the Board:

- **Pan-European added-value of the EEA/Eionet through knowledge creation to address key environmental challenges**

'The EEA Management Board recognises the importance of continuously adapting to the dynamic changing context. This involves the further integration of data into policy relevant knowledge, making best use of available ICT solutions including a further improvement and implementation of e-reporting and drawing out the benefits of Copernicus services for up-to-date information, indicators and assessments. The EEA Management Board commits to address the conclusions from the evaluation exercise as one of the key drivers for the EEA/Eionet strategy beyond 2020.'

- **Modernisation of Eionet**

'The EEA Management Board will actively engage with the EEA and Eionet in a joint and progressive modernisation exercise, with the goal of improving the value-added of EEA/Eionet to the developing policy agenda and knowledge needs.'

- **Organisational governance**

'The Board is committed to periodically review and improve its procedures as appropriate.'

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<sup>(26)</sup> Commission Staff Working Document (471 final) of 19 November 2018 on the Better Regulation evaluation of the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet).

<sup>(27)</sup> Commission Staff Working Document (471 final) of 19 November 2018 on the Better Regulation evaluation of the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet).

<sup>(28)</sup> Decision of the EEA Management Board on recommendations on the Commission evaluation of the EEA and Eionet (Decision EEA/MB/2019/015) of 20 June 2019.



- **Coherence and synergies in structural coordination between the EEA and Commission services**

‘The EEA Management Board recommends the EEA Executive Director and European Commission work closely together in the context of the Environment Knowledge Community of Commission Directorates-General, or any other mechanism deemed appropriate, to help ensure a clear articulation, prioritisation and distribution of responsibilities between knowledge providers.’

- **Challenges of administrative burden and organisational inefficiencies resulting from the increasing practice of non-core funding from Commission services**

‘The EEA Management Board recommends the Budgetary Authorities investigate an administrative simplification of funding mechanisms for additional EEA/Eionet activities, ideally by replacing them with core funding.’

- **Alignment of a future EEA/Eionet resource base with expectations for the Agency and its network**

‘The EEA Management Board requests the Commission and the Budgetary Authority, consisting of the European Parliament and Council, to ensure a future resource base for EEA/Eionet, consistent with the positive conclusions of the Better Regulation evaluation and increased policy mainstreaming of environment and climate in the proposed EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the period 2021-2027.

‘The EEA Management Board requests:

- The European Commission ensures that legislative proposals, which propose assigning new tasks to or increasing the scope of existing tasks of EEA/Eionet, also include a proposal for additional allocation of core resources to cover these additional activities.
- The co-legislators, the European Parliament and European Council, ensure that adopted initiatives and legislation engaging EEA/Eionet, are accompanied with a decision on adequate allocation of additional core EEA/Eionet resources.’

### ***Development of an EEA/Eionet strategy for the period 2021-2030***

The new strategy for the EEA and Eionet aims to respond to the EEA and Eionet evaluation and address its key recommendations.

In March 2019, the Management Board decided on (1) the time horizon 2021-2030 for the future strategy (to align with the upcoming Eighth Environment Action Programme, 8th EAP) and (2) the EEA and Eionet scope (EEA/Eionet strategy 2021-2030). The Board further recognised (1) its advisory role in relation to the strategy’s development (versus the EEA’s role of drafting the strategy) and (2) the need for close engagement with Eionet during the strategy’s development.

The Board’s advisory role in relation to the development of the EEA/Eionet strategy 2021-2030 included the following milestones in 2019:

- June 2019 — a Management Board seminar on aspects of relevance for the development of the EEA/Eionet strategy 2021-2030, which included the participation of Management Board members, Scientific Committee representatives, and Eionet national focal points (NFPs) and European Topic Centre (ETC) managers.



- June to August 2019 — establishing a Management Board Advisory Committee to support the development of the EEA/Eionet strategy 2021-2030. The Committee includes members of the Management Board (EEA member countries and European Commission representatives), Eionet NFPs and the Scientific Committee.
- October 2019 — the Advisory Committee’s support for the four building blocks proposed by the EEA:
  - 1) framing the strategy in the context of policy and knowledge developments, in particular the upcoming European Green Deal and 8th EAP;
  - 2) reconsidering the operational MDIAKC (monitoring-data-information-assessment-knowledge-communication) model;
  - 3) modernising the networking model;
  - 4) diversifying the resource base.
- November 2019 — the Advisory Committee’s advice in relation to diversifying resources, and modernising Eionet, as well as the Committee’s overall support for the EEA’s draft ‘Vision, narrative and strategic objectives’ and the ‘three-tiered approach’ to the consultation process.
- December 2019 — the Management Board’s support for the draft outline of the EEA/Eionet strategy.

December 2019 — a decision on the review process for the seven Eionet ETCs during 2020, including on the establishment of a Management Board Review Committee, in the light of the development of the new EEA/Eionet strategy 2021-2030. The Committee includes representation from the Management Board, Scientific Committee, European Commission and Eionet NFPs.

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## SIGNIFICANT RISK AND CONTROL ISSUES SIGNALLED TO AND DISCUSSED WITH THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

In the light of the EEA Management Board’s oversight role in relation to the Agency’s work and resource planning, a number of significant risks and control issues, particularly in relation to external factors were signalled to and discussed with the Management Board over the course of 2019. A number of issues were reflected in the Board’s response to the Commission’s evaluation of the EEA and Eionet (see earlier). The following additional significant risks and control issues were signalled to and discussed with the Management Board during the second half of 2019:

- ***Diversification of the resource base***

Both the risks and opportunities of financing additional EEA activities outside the EU subvention and **contributions from member countries (non-core funding)** have been discussed between the EEA and its Management Board in recent years. There has been fragmentation of funding that has evolved incrementally over the past decade, including for activities such as Copernicus and human health biomonitoring. While this can allow for innovations in output and responses to policy demands, it can also lead to inefficiencies and increased administrative burden.

- ***Policy developments***



The EEA and the European Commission provide information on (upcoming) long-term policy developments at each Board meeting, allowing the Board to provide the necessary strategic guidance in relation to potential EEA/Eionet engagement and resource implications. Key long-term policy developments addressed in 2019 include:

- the anticipated 8th EAP;
- the 2030 climate and energy policy framework, and the EU's contribution to the Paris Agreement;
- the monitoring and review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- the political guidelines for the next European Commission 2019-2024, presented by the incoming President of the European Commission to the European Parliament on 16 July 2019 and which set out a headline ambition to propose an overarching European Green Deal with a number of long-term strategic objectives — the EEA has the ambition of being a key partner in its implementation.

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## VICE-CHAIRS AND BUREAU MEMBERS

In 2019, no changes occurred in the mandate of the vice-chairs to the Board/Bureau members.

## 2.2 MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the EEA and Eionet in June 2019, the Agency and its network took stock of how Europe's environmental knowledge and policy have developed in the last 25 years and how efforts towards sustainability can be supported in the next 25 years. In the light of this, the development of the EEA/Eionet strategy for 2030, which was initiated in 2019 and will be adopted by mid-2020, provides an important opportunity to match knowledge and networking with Europe's environment and climate ambitions. The EEA and Eionet will play a key role in supporting the ambitious agenda set out under the European Green Deal.

Decisions taken by the budgetary authorities in 2019 will have significant implications for the EEA's work and consequently for its work programming going forward. Most notably, the decision to allocate seven additional posts and to increase the EEA's core subvention by EUR 1.3 million to fight climate change and support Green Deal initiatives will reinforce the Agency's capacity from 2020 onwards. The European Commission also included support for the sustainable finance initiative as a new task for the EEA, with further resources allocated to the Agency. In addition to its core work programme, the EEA entered into a new 2-year grant agreement with the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), commencing in February 2020, to continue work with the Western Balkan countries under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). The budget allocated was double that of the previous grant agreement, which will allow more thematic content work to be undertaken across the six countries of the Western Balkans.



Finally, throughout 2019, the EEA engaged in a process of preparing for the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU. The Agency followed the guidelines received by the European Commission Task Force established to oversee this process while maintaining constructive discussions with UK officials to ensure that the network in the United Kingdom was kept fully informed of relevant developments. In this regard, the EEA invested time and resources in preparing information technology (IT) systems for the United Kingdom's exit from the EU.

## 2.3 BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### 2.3.1 INFORMATION CURRENTLY TRANSMITTED IN THE REPORT ON BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The relevant information on budgetary and financial management is provided in the following sections (A-F):

#### A) *Implementation of appropriations*

The implementation rates of core funds are outlined in the table below.

	Final budget 2019 (core funds) (EUR)	Funds committed as a percentage of final budget	Funds paid as a percentage of final budget (at year end)
Title 1 — Staff	25 844 760.00	100.0	99.3
Title 2 — Administrative expenditure	4 559 214.00	99.9	89.8
Title 3 — Operating expenditure	14 809 254.00	100.0	73.4
<b>Total budget</b>	<b>45 213 228.00</b>	100.0	89.8

#### B) *Commitments for actions that will extend for more than one financial year; major items only (> EUR 500 000)*

The EEA did not commit any multiannual actions exceeding EUR 0.5 million in 2019.

#### C) *Transfers and amending budgets*

##### Transfers

A total of 32 transfers covering both core and non-core funding were made in 2019. Core fund transfers totalled EUR 661 958 (1.46 % of the total appropriations); the remaining 30 % of the transfers were made with non-core funds. The transfers per title, expressed as a percentage of appropriations, are given in the table below; they were well below the limit of 10 %, which the Executive Director is permitted to transfer.

2017 (%)	2018 (%)	2019 (%)
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Title 1 — Staff	0.99	2.39	-0.98
Title 2 — Administrative expenditure	2.63	-0.41	2.82
Title 3 — Operating expenditure	-3.84	-4.55	0.77

A negative percentage reflects the level of transfer out of a particular expenditure title, while a positive percentage indicates the level of transfer into a particular expenditure title. The figures are calculated as percentages of each of the titles and not of the total budget.

### Amending budgets

One amendment to the EEA budget was made in 2019, comprising two elements:

- a decrease in the non-core budget for the Copernicus delegation agreement, based on the actual pre-financing received in accordance with forecast needs;
- the annual update of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) contribution and the contribution from new member countries to reflect the actual amount paid.

No of revisions	Subject	Amount in EUR	Comments	Decision
First amended budget	Amendment to Copernicus	-2 429 000	Copernicus	Management Board written procedure approval (22 November 2019)
	Change in EFTA contribution and new member	-16 455	Change in contribution	

### D) Appropriations carried forward to the following financial year and implementation of appropriations carried forward from the previous financial year

		2018-2019	2019-2020
<b>Total</b>	Automatic carryovers (EUR)	3 829 527	4 592 778
	Carryovers by decision (EUR)	0	0
	Total budget (EUR)	43 068 303	45 213 228
	Carryforward as a percentage of total budget	8.9 %	9.8 %
	Cancelled carryforward (EUR)	226 600.65	—
	Cancelled carryforward as a percentage of total carry-forward	5.9 %	—

		2018-2019	2019-2020
<b>Title 1</b>	Automatic carryovers (EUR)	238 848	185 769
	Total budget (EUR)	25 359 793	25 844 760



	Carryforward as a percentage of total budget	0.9 %	0.7 %
	Cancelled carryforward (EUR)	76 625	—
	Cancelled carryforward as a percentage of total carryforward	32.1 %	—

		2018-2019	2019-2020
Title 2	Automatic carryovers (EUR)	386 798	464 707
	Total budget (EUR)	4 216 915	4 559 215
	Carryforward as a percentage of total budget	9.2 %	10.2 %
	Cancelled carryforward (EUR)	29 432	—
	Cancelled carryforward as a percentage of total carryforward	7.6 %	—

		2018-2019	2019-2020
Title 3	Automatic carryovers (EUR)	3 203 881	3 942 302
	Total budget (EUR)	13 491 594	14 809 255
	Carryforward as a percentage of total budget	23.7 %	26.6 %
	Cancelled carryforward (EUR)	120 543	—
	Cancelled carryforward as a percentage of total carryforward	3.8 %	—

## E) Procurement types used in 2019

### Background — obligation to report

Pursuant to Article 74(10) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council ('2018 FR'), the authorising officer must, for each financial year, record contracts concluded by negotiated procedures in accordance with points (a) to (f) of point 11.1 of Annex I to 2018 FR. If the proportion of negotiated procedures in relation to the number of contracts awarded by the authorising officer increases significantly in relation to earlier years, the authorising officer must report to the Management Board setting out any measures taken to reverse the trend.

### Negotiated procedures under point 11.1 of Annex I to the 2018 FR

For the purpose of this document, the term 'contracts' refers to contracts awarded following either a very low-, low- or middle-value negotiated procedure under point 14 of Annex I to the 2018 FR, a negotiated procedure under point 11.1 of Annex I to the 2018 FR or an open call.

It must be noted that contracts resulting from interinstitutional/joint procurement procedures led by some other contracting authority, specific contracts/order forms implementing framework contracts and contracts funded by external assigned revenue (RO, e.g. Copernicus programme, European Neighbourhood Instrument — ENI — programme, IPA programme) fall outside the scope of this report.



**Table of negotiated procedures under point 11.1 of Annex I to the 2018 FR carried out in 2019**

No	Contractor	Subject of the contract	Budget (EUR)	Type of procedure	Type of contract	Legal basis
1	Rosendahls A/S Print Design Media	Provision of layout services for the EEA	70 000	Negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice	Direct service contract	Point 11.1(c)

**Table of tendering procedures carried out in 2019**

Type of procedure	Number of contracts awarded in 2019
Negotiated without prior publication of a contract notice (point 11.1)	1
Very low value negotiated based on point 14.4	12
Low value negotiated based on point 14.3	7
Middle value negotiated based on point 14.2	1
Open call	8
Total	29

**Table of use of negotiated procedures under point 11.1 of Annex I to the 2018 FR in the last 5 years**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total no of contracts awarded by the EEA authorising officer	31	33	32	34	35 <sup>(a)</sup>	29
No of contracts resulting from negotiated procedures under point 11.1 of Annex I to the 2018 FR	5	1	3	4	2	1
Proportion (%)	16.12	3	9.37	11.76	5.71	3.45

<sup>(a)</sup> In 2018, in addition to the total number of contracts awarded by the EEA authorising officer, as defined in this document (35), seven framework partnership agreements for ETCs were awarded following open calls for proposals.

## Conclusion

The proportion of negotiated procedures under point 11.1 of Annex I to the 2018 FR in relation to the number of contracts awarded by the authorising officer decreased in 2019 compared with 2018.

### **F) Information on interest charged by suppliers through late payments (> 30 days late)**

All payments in 2019 were made within the deadlines set by the Financial Regulation. However, some contractors have shorter payment terms, and some payments (0.5 % of the total) were paid later than their terms but without any interest charges being paid.



### 2.3.2 SUMMARY OF BUDGETARY DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING GRANTS AND DELEGATION AGREEMENTS (EUR)

	2017	2018	2019	Difference between 2018 and 2019
EU subsidy	36 309 240	37 724 481	39 733 971	2 009 490
Contributions from other member countries	5 251 553	5 343 822	5 479 257	135 435
Earmarked funds	29 061 000	22 731 874	6 846 000	-15 885 874
<b>Total</b>	<b>70 621 793</b>	<b>65 800 177</b>	<b>52 059 228</b>	<b>-13 740 949</b>

#### Overview of earmarked revenue for the last 3 years

Earmarked revenue (external assigned revenue) is different from other fund sources, as it is multiannual. The funds are activated in the budget, following approval by the EEA Management Board, and are gradually executed in line with the principles laid down in the individual agreements — typically over several years.

Most of the earmarked funds are pre-financing received under the Copernicus delegation agreement. The high amount received in 2017 under Copernicus arose from a change in the terms of the delegation agreement, accelerating the payment of pre-financing. This in turn resulted in a reduction in pre-financing requested in 2019, even though procurement activity over the 3 years was relatively stable at approximately EUR 15 million per year.

<i>Earmarked revenue</i>	2016	2017	2018	2019
HumanBio				
Copernicus				
ENI South				
ENI East				
IPA2015				
IPA2018				

#### Notes:

IPA2018	Specific project for the participation of Western Balkan countries in the work of the EEA (2017-2019).
Human Bio	European Human Biomonitoring Initiative, HBM4EU (2017-2021).
Copernicus	Copernicus land monitoring service agreement (2014-2021).



IPA2015	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (Western Balkan countries) (2015-2018).
ENI South	Second phase towards the Shared Environmental Information System for Europe (SEIS) integration in the southern European neighbouring countries (European Neighbourhood Instrument South) (2015-2021).
ENI East	Second phase towards SEIS integration in the eastern European neighbouring countries (European Neighbourhood Instrument East) (2015-2021).

## 2.4 HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

### 2.4.1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE MAJOR HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENTS (I.E. CHANGES TO THE ESTABLISHMENT PLAN IN THE REPORTING YEAR, CHANGES IN MAJOR HUMAN RESOURCES POLICIES, ETC.)

The EEA followed austerity measures and reduced the number of staff by 5 %, in line with the overall principles laid down for EU institutions for the period 2013-2018. In addition, as the EEA was labelled a ‘cruising speed’ agency, a further 5 % reduction was made during the same period. By 2018, the EEA had completed the required 10 % reduction, although it experienced increasing difficulties in absorbing the work. The establishment plan for 2019 was kept at the 2018 level, i.e. 124 posts in total.

### 2.4.2 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE RESULTS OF THE SCREENING/BENCHMARKING EXERCISE (I.E. OVERHEADS TO OPERATIONAL RATIO, MAIN FINDINGS, ETC.)

The EEA has been carrying out an annual screening/benchmarking exercise since mid-December 2015, in accordance with the guidelines that were agreed by the EU agencies in their working group on a joint agency approach.

Approximately 80 % of all staff are dedicated to operational activities, a figure that has been more or less unchanged since 2014.

For details of the results of the 2019 screening exercise, please see Annex 4.



### 2.4.3 REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 28 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S REPORT 2011 DISCHARGE: PERFORMANCE, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF EU AGENCIES (P7\_TA (2013)0134) ON THE NUMBER OF DAYS OF LEAVE AUTHORISED TO EACH GRADE UNDER THE FLEXTIME AND COMPENSATORY LEAVE SCHEMES

Number of flexi-days authorised to each grade under the flexitime and compensatory leave scheme

Category	Grade	Number of flexi-days	Average flexi-days per person
SNE	N/A	195	11.4
AD	15	0	0.0
AD	13	20	9.8
AD	12	42	4.6
AD	11	40	4.9
AD	10	79	7.9
AD	9	102	10.2
AD	8	51	7.3
AD	7	47	7.8
AD	6	42	8.3
AST	10	14	6.8
AST	9	62	8.9
AST	8	42	8.3
AST	7	44	5.5
AST	6	49	5.4
AST	5	61	6.8
AST	4	94	8.5
AST	3	40	5.6
AST	2	5	5.0
FG IV	17	47	11.8
FG IV	16	112	7.5
FG IV	15	56	9.3
FG IV	14	236	9.4
FG IV	13	20	20.0
FG III	10	41	8.2
FG III	9	38	6.3
FG III	8	4	3.5
FG II	6	34	11.3
FG II	5	5	1.7
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>1 616</b>	<b>8.0</b>

**Note:** A 'flexitime day' does not always refer to a day not worked; it indicates a day when the staff member was not present during all core hours.



## 2.5 ASSESSMENT BY MANAGEMENT

### 2.5.1 RESULTS OF CONTROLS OR CONTROL PROCEDURES PERFORMED BY STAFF OF THE EEA (*EX POST* AND *EX ANTE* EVALUATIONS)

In line with the ETCs' verification strategy updated in October 2015 and still applicable, the resource officers performed *ex ante* verifications. Supporting documentation has been collected per ETC, to give the EEA's management reasonable assurance of the reliability and accuracy of the costs claimed. The checks carried out resulted in the rejection of 0.11 % of the costs claimed.

One on-the-spot verification took place. It was conducted *ex post* by the internal auditor of the IAC. The selection was based on a risk assessment and took into account the results of missions conducted in previous years.

## 2.6 BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION TASKS ENTRUSTED TO OTHER SERVICES AND ENTITIES

### 2.6.1 ASSURANCE RECEIVED FROM OTHER AUTHORISING OFFICERS IN CASES OF CROSSED SUB-DELEGATIONS

N/A

## 2.7 ASSESSMENT OF AUDIT RESULTS DURING THE REPORTING YEAR

### 2.7.1 INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The report of the audit on procurement was finalised in 2019. The objective of the audit was to assess the adequacy of the design and the efficiency and effectiveness of the procurement and contract management processes to ensure compliance with the applicable rules and best value for money.

The audit concluded that, in the context of the Agency's efforts to pursue its key objectives on procurement and contract management, the Internal Audit Service of the European Commission acknowledges that the EEA's staff demonstrate a strong commitment to performing their tasks professionally and within the legal time frames. The Internal Audit Service notes that the procurement and contract management functions in the EEA are adequately set up and staffed; procedures and guidelines are documented, approved and communicated to the staff.

While acknowledging the ongoing efforts to further strengthen its internal procurement and contract management controls, the Internal Audit Service concludes that, although the procurement and contract management processes are overall adequately designed, efficient and effective, there



is one very important weakness related to the monitoring of procurement procedures and contract management.

Another audit took place in 2019 with title 'Project financed actions'. The audit report will be finalised in 2020.

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### 2.7.2 INTERNAL AUDIT CAPABILITY

In line with the requirements of the EEA Financial Regulation, the IAC audit plan for 2019 was approved by the Management Board. It included three main areas of contribution: audit assignments, advisory tasks and liaison with other auditors (e.g. the Internal Audit Service and the ECA).

#### **Audit**

After reviewing the verification process of ETC cost statements, the IAC established a risk assessment to select beneficiaries for on-the-spot verifications.

One beneficiary was selected in relation to two grants. The verifications carried out consisted of recalculating personnel costs and, furthermore, analysed the reliability of the internal control systems put in place to complete the cost statements. The focus was on staff costs, as they generally represent 75 % of the total costs claimed. No adjustment has been recommended, only a change in methodology.

#### **Advisory tasks**

The accrual-based accounting system access rights were reviewed to ensure the correct validation of the access granted to the accounting system of the EEA.

The IAC contributed to the EEA's annual risk assessment through advice to its senior management team.

#### **Liaison with other auditors**

Some coordination was needed for the finalisation of the Internal Audit Service audit on procurement and the launch of the audit on project financed actions.

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### 2.7.3 EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS

The opinion received from the ECA in 2019 was for the 2018 annual accounts.

With regard to reliability, the auditors noted that, 'In [the Court's] opinion, the accounts of the Agency for the year ended 31 December 2018 present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Agency at 31 December 2018, the results of its operations, its cash flows, and the changes in net assets for the year then ended, in accordance with its Financial Regulation and with accounting rules adopted by the Commission's accounting officer. These are based on internationally accepted accounting standards for the public sector.'

With regard to the legality and regularity of the transactions, the ECA noted that, in their opinion, 'the revenue and payments underlying the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018 are legal





and regular in all material respects.’ Three observations were made for the EEA: two related to two perceived weaknesses in a public procurement procedure and one to a perceived weakness in internal controls, regarding the follow-up of sensitive functions.

## 2.8 FOLLOW-UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLANS FOR AUDITS

### 2.8.1 INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The ‘open’ recommendations of the Internal Audit Service are related to the audit on procurement, which was finalised at the beginning of 2019.

#### ***Audit on procurement***

One recommendation was rated ‘very important’ and two were rated ‘important’. An action plan has been developed and accepted by the Internal Audit Service to respond to them adequately. The implemented measures will reduce the risks identified during the audit.

## 2.9 FOLLOW-UP OF OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DISCHARGE AUTHORITY

As a preamble to the discharge procedure for 2018, the European Parliament sent a questionnaire to all EU agencies, to which the EEA submitted a reply. The European Parliament had additional questions for several agencies, which did not include the EEA. The agencies’ network chair participated, together with agencies that had received additional questions, in a hearing on 4 December 2019.

On 21 January 2020, the European Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety adopted the draft opinion on the discharge. During a plenary session on 30 and 31 March 2020, the European Parliament voted to grant the discharge for the financial year 2018.

#### **Follow-up on the 2018 discharge by the European Parliament**

The EEA will prepare a response to the discharge, *Report of the Executive Director to the Discharge Authority on measures taken in the light of the Discharge Authority’s recommendations of 2018*, in accordance with Article 107(2) of the Framework Financial Regulation.



## PART 2B EXTERNAL EVALUATIONS

### 2.10 BETTER REGULATION EVALUATION OF THE EEA AND EIONET IN 2016-2018

Between 2016 and 2018, the European Commission carried out an evaluation of the EEA and Eionet, including the Founding Regulation. The evaluation covered the period mid-2012 to the end of 2016 and took into account the previous evaluations of the Agency (such as that in April 2013). The evaluation followed the Better Regulation guidelines and thus included an analysis of five main themes: effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and European added value.

The overall conclusion of the evaluation was that the EEA and Eionet fulfil the main objectives set by the Founding Regulation. The evaluation found that the EEA and Eionet continue to be relevant and provide EU added value by implementing the multiannual work programmes in a largely effective, efficient and coherent way.

The evaluation recognised that Eionet is a unique network of environment and climate expertise that provides essential expertise in many areas and contributes to the efficiency of the EEA's work. There was margin for improvement in the information provided on Eionet activities, the clarification of its role and better visibility of the added value of the various Eionet components and how these interact with the EEA and the Commission services, notably in the area of reporting.

The EEA and Eionet were seen as essential data providers, both for the Commission and for member countries. While data collection was seen as working efficiently in all climate and many environmental fields, they did not always fully benefit from new technologies, such as Copernicus. The evaluation identified that these additional requests demonstrate recognition that the EEA and its network provide unique value for money. While additional but temporary resources accompanied some of these specific requests, the EEA had to adjust to a nominal freezing of the EU core subsidy and corresponding human resource reduction, in line with the Commission policy for decentralised agencies.

The evaluation further concluded that the EEA has proved to be reliable in providing the necessary information to support EU policymaking and had adapted very well to new EU policy developments. The evaluation also noted that these accomplishments had been achieved against a backdrop of decreasing staff resources and increasing demand from the Commission to support new legislation on both the environment and the climate, as well as supporting Copernicus.

The conclusions of the evaluation, and the recommendations of the Management Board thereupon, are being addressed by the EEA in its ongoing planning and moreover in the formulation of the EEA strategy to cover the period 2021-2030.



## PART 3 ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

### 3.1 RISK MANAGEMENT

#### 3.1.1 MOST IMPORTANT TYPES/AREAS OF RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE EEA'S OPERATIONS (E.G., WHERE RELEVANT, DATA PROTECTION ISSUES AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

The most important risk areas for the EEA for 2019 summarised in the risk register are as follows.

Main risk group		Generic risks identified	Likelihood of occurrence	Impact on EEA objectives	Compliance impact	Financial impact	Reputational impact
External	External environment	The impact of Brexit on the functioning of the EEA and Eionet could hamper the delivery of the Programming Document 2020-2022. In addition, the EEA may need to review its policies/procedures/systems and budget to reflect the United Kingdom's withdrawal, which may have a negative impact on operations and lead to financial risk.	High	Medium	Low	High	High
		There is an increased tendency among European Knowledge Community (EKC) partners (in particular the Joint Research Centre, JRC) to deprioritise certain tasks; often the partners formulate the proposal that some tasks should be covered by the EEA, without an appropriate discussion about the human and financial resources needed.	High	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium
		Not having the resources to meet expectations in new strategic areas (SAs) aligned with the new European Commission priorities in environmental and climate policies (e.g. the European Green Deal)	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	High
		The increased risk of cyber-attacks puts pressure on the EEA's information technology (IT) security and reputation, and will remain a permanent source of attention.	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium
Internal	Planning, processes and systems	There is continuous pressure on core administrative resources, given the volume of projects financed externally, without the perspective of having these projects integrated as core tasks.	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium
	Legality and regularity aspects	Inefficient contractual provisions included in grants and delegation agreements from the European Commission for externally funded projects increases the administrative burden on the EEA (double reporting and auditing). Furthermore, it increases the fragmentation of EEA revenue.	High	Medium	Low	Medium	Low



		The volume of requirements under the new data protection legislation could lead to delays in implementing the provisions envisaged in the new regulation.	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Low
	<b>Communication and information</b>	Potential content inaccuracies in outputs could damage the EEA's reputation.	Low	High	Medium	Low	High

### 3.1.2 INFORMATION — OBTAINED BY MEANS OF APPROPRIATE MONITORING TOOLS — ON THE RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS, NAMELY HOW THE EEA RESPONDS TO OR MITIGATES THE MOST IMPORTANT RISKS (BUT NOT THE ACTUAL LEVEL OF LIKELIHOOD OR POTENTIAL IMPACT)

The EEA responded to the most important risks by assigning the responsibility of taking actions to the different programmes concerned.

### 3.1.3 VERY HIGH-LEVEL INFORMATION ON FRAUD PREVENTION AND DETECTION

With a view to responding to the requirement of the roadmap adopted by the European Commission for the implementation of the common approach for EU decentralised agencies, agreed in July 2012 by the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission, an anti-fraud strategy was adopted by the EEA in 2014 and updated in December 2017.

An action plan was developed as a result of the fraud risk assessment performed.

The implementation of the action plan is ongoing for 3 years.

### 3.1.4 ANY PROMINENT RISKS THAT HAVE MATERIALISED IN THE REPORTING YEAR SHOULD BE NOTED

N/A

## 3.2 COMPLIANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROL STANDARDS

### 3.2.1 THE METHODOLOGY APPLIED FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE COMPLIANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROL STANDARDS

In December 2017, the EEA Management Board changed the internal control standards by adopting an internal control framework consisting of 17 principles covering key organisational aspects (control environment, risk management, control activities, information and communication, monitoring of activity).



The EEA's IAC looked at each principle and assessed whether or not it is being effectively implemented by looking at internal control indicators.

The IAC concluded that the EEA complied with all principles approved by the Management Board.

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### 3.2.2 INFORMATION ON THE STANDARDS WITH WHICH THE EEA DOES NOT YET COMPLY (FULLY OR PARTIALLY), THE REASONS FOR THIS AND THE PLANNED ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE SITUATION, INCLUDING TARGET DATES

N/A



## PART 4 MANAGEMENT ASSURANCE

### 4.1 REVIEW OF THE ELEMENTS SUPPORTING ASSURANCE

#### 4.1.1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF ASSURANCE

The information reported in Parts 2 and 3 stems from the results of management and audits. Audit reports result from a systematic analysis of the evidence available and cover only a part of many core activities within the EEA. Furthermore, different audit capacities (the IAC, the Internal Audit Service and the ECA) cover different areas, and, therefore, between them and the internal controls in the EEA, a comprehensive basis for assurance is ensured.

This approach provides sufficient guarantees of the completeness and reliability of the information reported and results in exhaustive coverage of the budget delegated to the Executive Director.

In conclusion:

- There were no reservations listed in the previous years' annual activity reports.
- All recommendations of the Internal Audit Service issued in relation to audits finalised in previous years have been closed.
- The EEA had not received final observations from the ECA at the date of publication of this report.
- There are no open observations from the European Parliament.

#### 4.1.2 SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF ANY SIGNIFICANT WEAKNESSES REPORTED IN PARTS 2 AND 3, AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THEIR COMBINED IMPACT ON THE DECLARATION OF ASSURANCE

Taking the above into consideration, no weaknesses were identified with regard to the financial management of appropriations within the EEA, and so no reservations are made in this context in the declaration.



### **Declaration of assurance**

I, the undersigned,

Executive Director of the European Environment Agency and in my capacity as authorising officer declare that the information contained in this report gives a true and fair view.

State that I have reasonable assurance that the resources assigned to the activities described in this report have been used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, and that the control procedures put in place give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.

This reasonable assurance is based on my own judgement and on the information at my disposal, such as the results of the self-assessment, *ex post* controls, the work of the internal audit capability, the observations of the Internal Audit Service and the lessons learnt from the reports of the Court of Auditors for years prior to the year of this declaration.

Confirm that I am not aware of anything not reported here that could harm the interests of the European Environment Agency.

Copenhagen, 08 June 2020

[Signed]

Hans Bruyninckx

### **Statement of the Head of Administration**

I declare that I have reported my advice and recommendations to the Executive Director on the overall state of internal control in the EEA.

I hereby certify that the information provided in Parts 2 and 3 of the present CAAR and in its annexes is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and exhaustive.

Copenhagen, 08 June 2020

[Signed]

Søren Brostrup Nielsen



## 4.2 RESERVATIONS

4.2.1 INDICATE THE SCOPE OF THE RESERVATION AND DESCRIBE THE SPECIFIC CAUSE OF THE WEAKNESS. THE CONCLUSIONS ON WHETHER THE WEAKNESSES ARE MATERIAL ENOUGH TO LEAD TO A RESERVATION SHOULD ALWAYS BE CLEARLY EXPLAINED AND JUSTIFIED

N/A

4.2.2 QUANTIFY THE EXPOSURE (IMPACT IN MONETARY TERMS) AS FAR AS POSSIBLE

N/A

4.2.3 EXPLAIN THE IMPACT ON THE DECLARATION OF ASSURANCE

N/A

4.2.4 SET OUT THE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANNED AND WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TAKING THIS ACTION IN AN ACTION PLAN, INCLUDING TARGET DATES AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE ACTIONS

N/A

## 4.3 OVERALL CONCLUSION ON ASSURANCE

4.3.1 AN ASSESSMENT OF THE COMBINED IMPACT OF ANY RESERVATIONS MADE ON THE DECLARATION AND A CLEAR CONCLUSION AS TO WHETHER, IN THE LIGHT OF THOSE RESERVATIONS, THE ASSURANCE TO BE PROVIDED IN THE DECLARATION CAN BE GIVEN. CONSIDERATION IS TO BE GIVEN TO THE OVERALL FINANCIAL IMPACT RESULTING FROM THE RESERVATIONS, WEIGHED BY THE RELATIVE SHARE OF THE ACTIVITY CONCERNED BY EACH RESERVATION, I.E. TO WHAT EXTENT DO THE RESERVATIONS REFER TO CORE BUSINESS VERSUS OTHER ACTIVITIES?

N/A





## ANNEX 1 CORE BUSINESS STATISTICS

For details and analysis of the key performance indicators for 2019, please refer to Section 1.5.



## ANNEX 2 STATISTICS ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### Commitments (C1 – 2019 – core only, EUR)

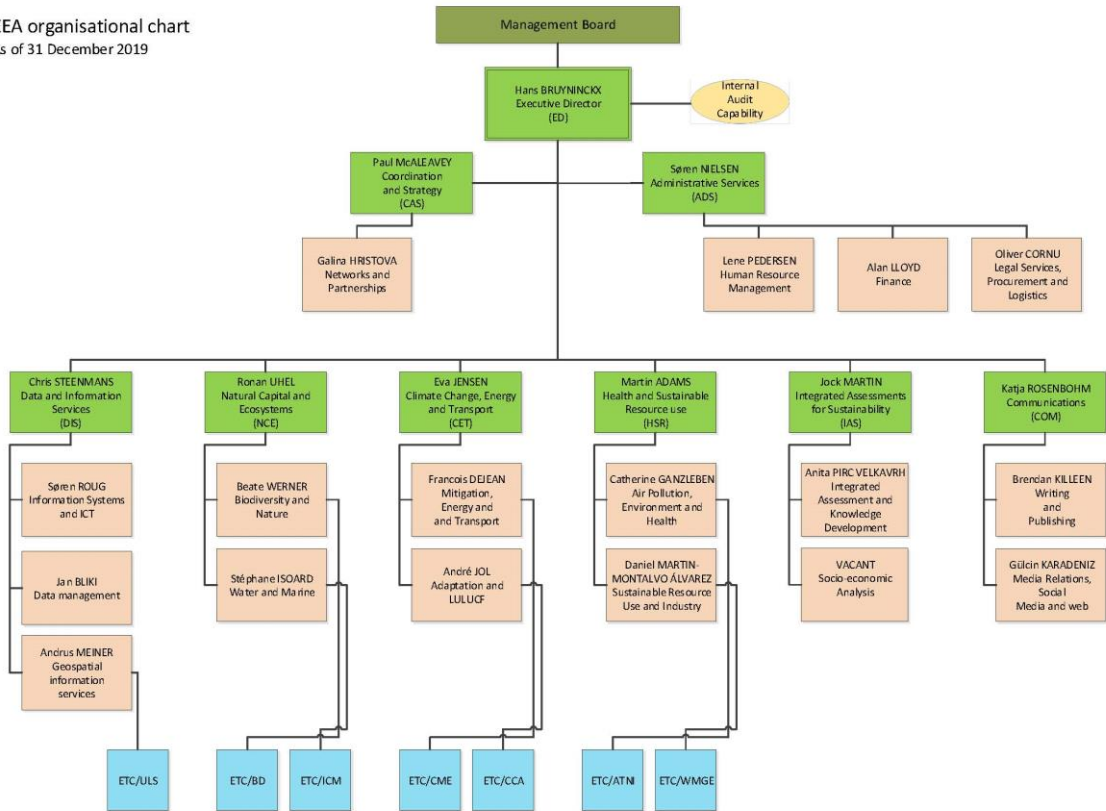
Titles	Appropriation 2019 (core funds only)	Committed	Non-committed appropriations cancelled	Paid	Available for carryover	Carried over	Committed appropriation cancelled
1.Staff	25 844 760.12	25 844 759.70	0.42	25 658 990.21	185 769.49	185 769.49	0
2.Administrative expenditure	4 559 214.91	4 556 713.91	2 500.00	4 092 006.94	464 706.97	464 706.97	0
3.Operating expenditure	14 809 254.97	14 808 552.12	701.85	10 866 250.62	3 942 301.50	3 942 301.50	0
Total	45 213 228.00	45 210 025.73	3 202.27	40 617 247.77	4 592 777.96	4 592 777.96	0

### Cancelled commitment appropriations (C8 – 2019 – core only, EUR)

Titles	Carryover from 2018	Paid	Committed appropriation cancelled
1.Staff	238 847.89	162 222.71	76 625.18
2.Administrative expenditure	386 797.63	357 365.54	29 432.09
3.Operating expenditure	3 203 881.32	3 083 337.94	120 543.38
Total	3 829 526.84	3 602 926.19	226 600.65

# ANNEX 3 ORGANISATIONAL CHART

EEA organisational chart  
As of 31 December 2019





## ANNEX 4 ESTABLISHMENT PLAN

### Staff population and its evolution — overview across all contract type categories

Staff population		Staff population actually filled at 31.12.2018	Authorised under EU budget 2019	Staff population actually filled at 31.12.2019
Officials	AD	1	1	1
	AST	2	3	2
	AST/SC	0	0	0
TA	AD	59	60	59
	AST	60	60	58
	AST/SC	0	0	0
Total		122	124	120
CA GF IV		44	51	44
CA GF III		13	11	10
CA GF II		6	10	7
CA GF I		0	0	0
Total CA		63	72	61
SNE		19	20	19
<i>Structural service providers</i>		16	16	16
TOTAL		220	232	216
<i>External staff for occasional replacement</i>		—	—	—

### Contract agent posts — number of positions filled at 31 December 2019

Positions filled at 31.12.2019	GF I	GF II	GF III	GF IV	Total
Under core funds	—	7	10	44	61
Under HumanBio	—	—	—	1	1
Under ENIS	—	—	1	1	2
Under Copernicus	—	—	—	6	6
Under ENIE	—	1	1	3	5
<b>Total</b>	—	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>75</b>



## Establishment plan 2019

Category and grade	Establishment plan in EU budget 2019	
	Officials	TA
AD 16	—	—
AD 15	—	1
AD 14	—	3
AD 13	1	6
AD 12	—	16
AD 11	—	10
AD 10	—	10
AD 9	—	9
AD 8	—	4
AD 7	—	1
AD 6	—	—
AD 5	—	—
<b>Total AD</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>60</b>
AST 11	—	3
AST 10	—	5
AST 9	3	12
AST 8	—	12
AST 7	—	12
AST 6	—	11
AST 5	—	5
AST 4	—	—
AST 3	—	—
AST 2	—	—
AST 1	—	—
<b>Total AST</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>120</b>

## Entry level per key function for establishment plan posts

Key functions — general <sup>(a)</sup>	Type of contract (official, TA or CA) Function group; grade of recruitment (or bottom of the brackets if published in brackets)
Executive Director (level 1)	TA AD14
Head of Programme (level 2)	Official/TA AD11
Head of Group (level 3 <sup>(b)</sup> )	Official/TA From AD6/AST6
Expert	Official/TA/CA From AD6/FGIV
Officer	Official/TA/CA From AST3/FGIII
Assistant	Official/TA/CA From AST1/FGII
Key functions — examples	Type of contract (official, TA or CA)



Key functions — general <sup>(a)</sup>	Type of contract (official, TA or CA)  Function group; grade of recruitment (or bottom of the brackets if published in brackets)
<b>Head of Programme ‘Administrative Services’</b> (level 2)	Official/TA AD11
<b>Head of Group ‘Human Resource Management’</b> (level 3)	Official/TA From AD6/AST6
<b>Head of Group ‘Finance’</b> (level 3)	Official/TA From AD6/AST6
<b>Head of Group ‘Legal Services, Procurement and Logistics’</b> (level 3)	Official/TA From AD6/AST6
<b>Head of Programme ‘Communications’</b> (level 2)	TA AD11
<b>Head of Programme ‘Data and Information Services’</b> (level 2)	TA AD11
<b>Head of Group ‘Information Systems and ICT’</b> (level 3)	TA From AD6/AST6
<b>Expert — Data Protection</b>	Official/TA From AD6
<b>Expert — Accountant</b>	Official/TA From AD8
<b>Expert — Internal Audit Capability</b>	Official/TA From AD8

**Notes:**

CA, contract agent; TA, temporary agent.

<sup>(a)</sup> The text in bold indicates official EEA titles.

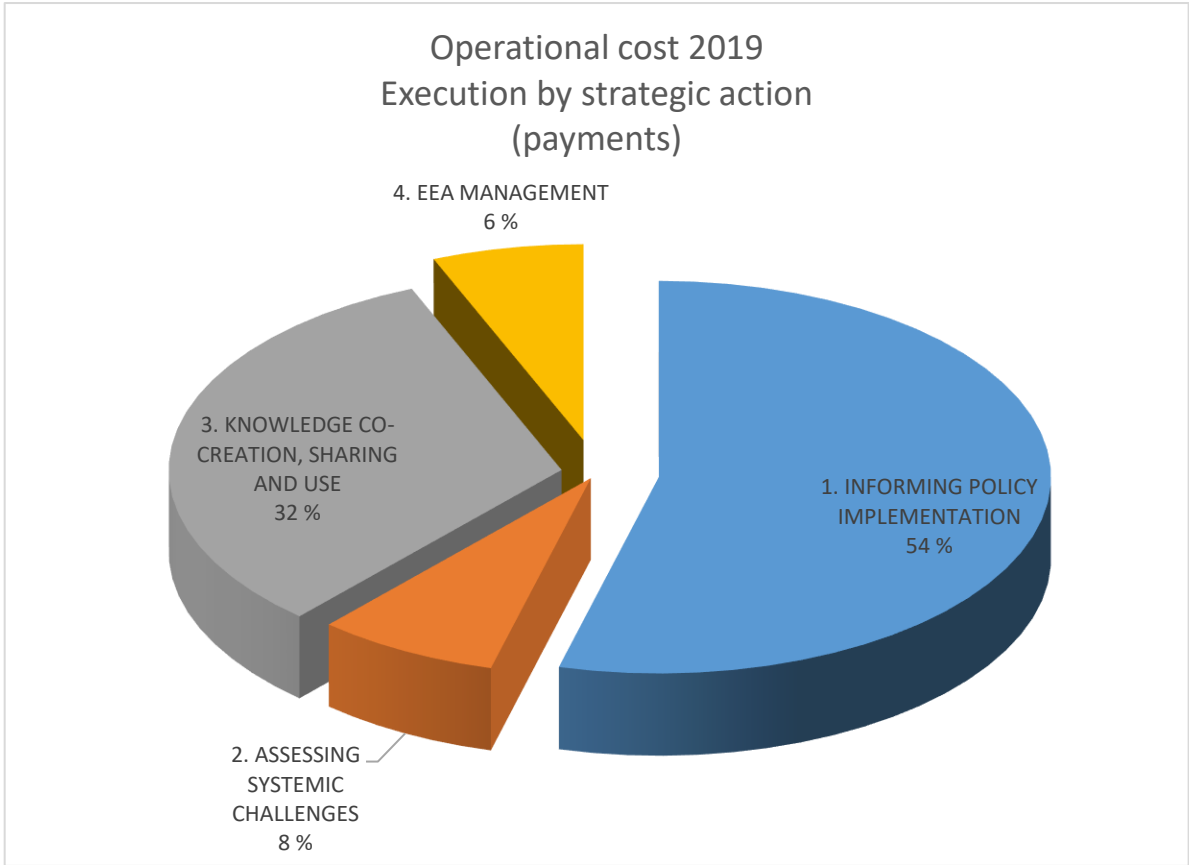
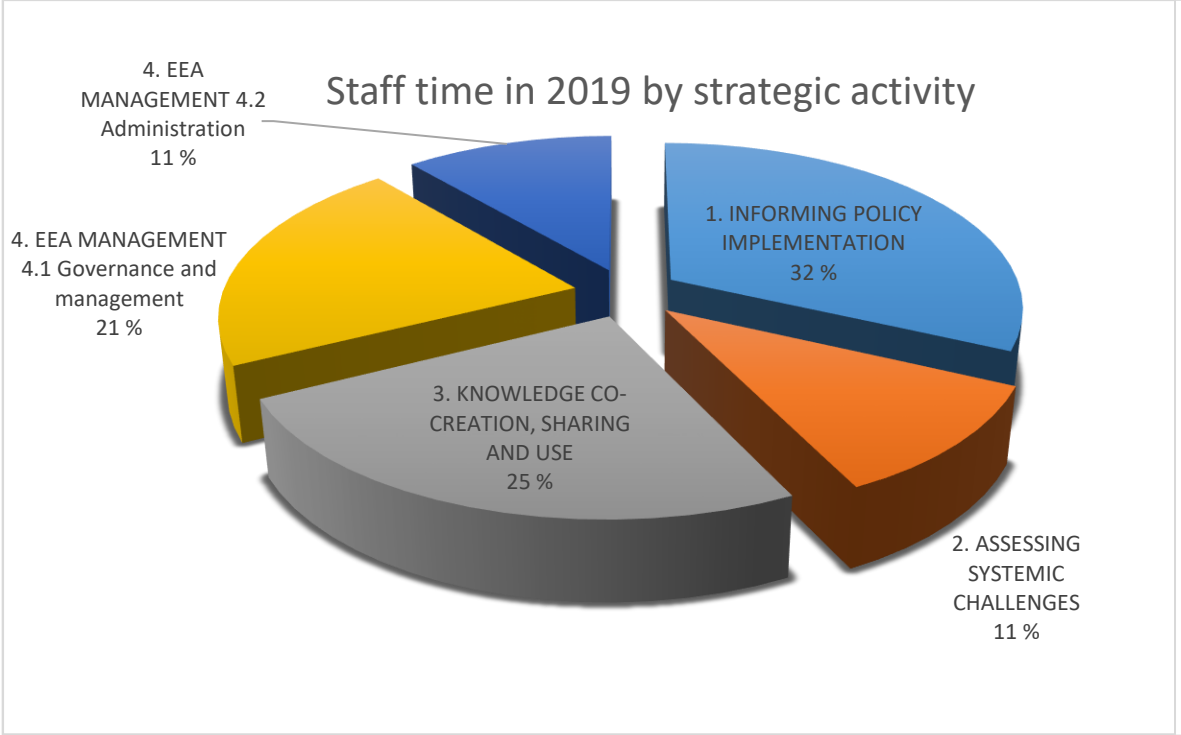
<sup>(b)</sup> Excluded from management allowance.



## Information on benchmarking exercise

<i>Job type (sub) category</i>	<i>Year N - 1 (%)</i>	<i>Year 2019 (%) (= Year N)</i>
<b>Administrative support and coordination — subtotal</b>	<b>12.66</b>	<b>11.04</b>
Administrative support	11.14	9.46
Coordination	1.52	1.58
<b>Operational — subtotal</b>	<b>80.52</b>	<b>81.76</b>
Top level operational coordination	4.00	4.17
Programme management and implementation	75.87	77.14
Evaluation and impact assessment	0.65	0.45
General operational	0	0
<b>Neutral — subtotal</b>	<b>6.82</b>	<b>7.21</b>
Finance/control	6.82	7.21
Linguistics	0	0

## ANNEX 5 HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES BY ACTIVITY







## ANNEX 6 FINAL DRAFT OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

### Budget outturn and cancellation of appropriations

Calculation of budget outturn (EUR)

Budget outturn	2018	2017
Reserve from the previous years' surplus (+)		
Revenue actually received (+)	66 085 813	68 000 073
Payments made (-)	-57 008 158	-52 054 488
Carryover of appropriations (-)	- 40 372 493	- 35 823 836
Cancellation of appropriations carried over (+)	242 025	443 566
Adjustment for carryover of assigned revenue appropriation from previous year (+)	31 313 804	19 910 772
Exchange rate differences (+/-)	-7 776	-2 480
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>253 218</b>	<b>473 607</b>

#### Cancellation of appropriations

- Cancellation of commitment appropriations: non-committed core funds in 2019 amount to EUR 3 202.27.
- Cancellation of payment appropriations for the year: see above.
- Cancellation of payment appropriations carried over: unpaid C8 amounts to EUR 226.600.

#### Justification

A positive budgetary outturn is to be reimbursed to the Commission. The positive outturn for 2019, EUR 218 261.22, is composed of the following components:

BUDGETARY RESULT SPECIFICATION	2019	2018
C1 – Current appropriations	—	—
Amount not cashed	—	—
Non-committed	3 202	18 945
C4 – Reuse of funds current year	—	—
Amounts not made available in the budget	3 356	25
C8 – Appropriations carried over from previous year	—	—
Cancellation of unused appropriations	226 601	242 025
Exchange rate difference (gain+/loss-)	-14 898	-7 777
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>218 261</b>	<b>253 218</b>

Cancellation of unused payment appropriations carried over from the previous year (C8 funds) amounted to EUR 26 600.65, which is significantly lower than in the year before that (EUR 242 025.39).



## ANNEX 7 INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS

### AUDIT ON PROCUREMENT

#### 'Very important' recommendation

No 1: Monitoring of and reporting on procurement procedures and specific contracts	
<p>The EEA should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- establish a standard methodology or a formalised procedure and define clear indicators for monitoring the procurement plan implementation, allowing management to detect problems and decide on corrective measures, including actions, deadlines and responsible persons; define minimum mandatory data requirements to be uploaded in the procurement database;</li> <li>- review the options of the management plan system (MPS) and legal commitment kernel (LCK) databases and set compulsory data requirements in line with the monitoring objectives and methodology;</li> <li>- develop and deliver in-house training sessions on LCK for the staff involved;</li> <li>- enhance its reporting on the payment delays related to individual specific contracts, accumulated backlog (if any) and the risks related to these delays;</li> <li>- ensure timely payment of invoices by means of improved monitoring (e.g. through periodic Business Objects-generated reports or possibly an alert system).</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Action plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review and update accordingly the process for the adoption and periodic review of the annual procurement plan.</li> <li>- Review and update accordingly the guidance on how to request a procurement product in the MPS.</li> <li>- Review the options in the MPS and develop accordingly standard periodic reports on procurement implementation, including information/reasons for potential delays.</li> <li>- Send newly recruited finance, resource and procurement officers on standard training LCK training courses provided by the European Commission as part of the induction programme. Provide 1:1 further support and training to finance, resource and procurement officers on a needs basis, subsequent to their attending the standard European Commission training.</li> <li>- Develop a standard periodic report on payment delays related to individual specific contracts, accumulated backlog (if any) and the risks related to these delays.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Target date:</b></p> <p>March 2020</p>

**'Important' recommendations**

<b>No 2: Training on procurement and contract management</b>	
<p>The EEA should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- establish a list of relevant procurement training courses, organise these courses and have all staff members involved in the procurement activities attend them, taking into account the development needs of the staff concerned as well as the specific knowledge needed for the procurement procedures;</li> <li>- develop and deliver mandatory in-house training sessions for new project managers on procurement basics.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Action plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a survey on and analysis of procurement training needs in order to select priorities.</li> <li>- Develop and deliver tailored procurement training for the priorities identified.</li> <li>- Develop and deliver mandatory training sessions for new project managers on procurement basics; include the manual of procedure on public procurement and contract management in the welcome package for newcomers.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Target date:</b></p> <p>Completed</p>
<b>No 3: Lack of documentation and details in the procurement files and tender specifications</b>	
<p>The EEA should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- set up a clearly documented process to establish the contract value;</li> <li>- ensure that the tender specifications are sufficiently detailed;</li> <li>- ensure that all relevant elements presented by the tenderers are taken into account during evaluations, as long as they are in the scope of the tender specifications;</li> <li>- document any staff members who are not evaluation committee members but are involved in the evaluation process as technical support and specify their role;</li> <li>- analyse and clearly document the analysis of any elements of the tender documentation that potentially pose a risk for the delivery of the required services for the full duration of the contract (e.g. court cases, tax liabilities).</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Action plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Design a clear process and checklist for estimating the value of a contract.</li> <li>- Review and update the evaluation report template; develop a checklist accordingly/document formally the procurement services' opinion on the evaluation report.</li> <li>- Further develop guidance for the drafting of tender specifications in the manual of procedures.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Target date:</b></p> <p>N/A</p>



## ANNEX 8 OUTPUT TABLES

### Outputs SA1.1: Air pollution and noise

Format	Description	Outcome
<b>Key</b>		
Standard EEA report	Annual report: Air quality in Europe	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 10/2019</a>
Standard EEA report R <sup>(a)</sup>	Annual report: EU emissions inventory report under UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP)	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 8/2019</a>
Standard EEA report R <sup>(a)</sup>	EMEP/EEA air pollutant emission inventory guidebook 2019	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 13/2019</a>
Standard EEA report R <sup>(a)</sup>	Noise in Europe 2019 report	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 22/2019</a>
Briefing R <sup>(a)</sup>	Annual report: NEC Directive reporting status 2019	Completed <a href="#">NEC Directive briefing</a>
Core set indicator	CSI004 — Exceedance of air quality standards in urban areas	Completed <a href="#">CSI 004</a>
Core set indicator	CSI005 — Exposure of Europe's ecosystems to acidification, eutrophication and ozone	Completed <a href="#">CSI 005</a>
Core set indicator	CSI040/AIR 005 — Emissions of the main air pollutants in Europe	Completed <a href="#">CSI 040</a>
Core set indicator	CSI051/TERM005 — Exposure of Europe's population to environmental noise	Completed <a href="#">CSI 051</a>
Core data flow	LRTAP Convention — national emission inventories	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core data flow	(E1a) Information on primary validated assessment data — measurements (Article 10)	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core data flow	(E2a) Information on primary up-to-date assessment data — measurements (Article 10)	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Eionet meetings	Eionet NRC workshop on mitigation of air pollution and climate change	Completed
Eionet meetings	Eionet NRC workshop on air quality	Completed
Eionet meetings	Eionet NRC workshop on noise	Completed
<b>Supporting</b>		
Country fact sheets	Noise country fact sheets	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Country fact sheets	Air pollution country factsheets	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Signals-style AS5-format	A guide to air quality sensors — Assessing air quality through citizen science	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 19/2019</a>
Briefing	Citizen science and air quality — EPA Network joint project	Cancelled. Availability of results from participating EPA partners was delayed



Format	Description	Outcome
Joint products and contributions	Contribution to <i>The European environment — State and outlook 2020</i> report (SOER 2020): air pollution and noise	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Indicator	Updated supporting indicators on air pollutant emissions (AIR001, AIR002)	Completed <a href="#">AIR 001</a> , <a href="#">AIR 002</a>
Data and maps	Updated compilations of other air quality data, information and maps	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Information system	European Air Quality Index	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Information system	Updated air quality e-Reporting system	Completed
Data and maps	Updated compilations of other air pollutant emissions and projections data	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Data and maps	Updated compilations of noise data	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Information system	Updated NOISE information system	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Joint products and contributions	Provision of policy support	Completed

**Note:**

(<sup>a</sup>) Regular report under an EU legislation and/or international convention.

**Outputs SA1.2: Industrial pollution**

Format	Description	Outcome
<b>Key</b>		<b>Outcome</b>
Core set indicator	CSI055/INDP003 — Industrial pollution in Europe	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core data flow	European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) data reporting	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Eionet meetings	Eionet NRC workshop on industrial pollution	Completed
<b>Supporting</b>		
Standard EEA report (carried over from 2018)	Assessing the effectiveness of EU policy on large combustion plants in reducing air pollutant emissions	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 7/2019</a>
Briefing	A decade of industrial pollution data	Completed <a href="#">EEA Briefing No 4/2019</a>
Country fact sheets	Industrial pollution country factsheets	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Joint products and contributions	Contribution to SOER 2020 report: industrial pollution	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Indicator	Updated supporting indicators on environmental pressures from industry (INDP001, INDP002)	Completed <a href="#">INDP001</a> , <a href="#">INDP002</a>



Format	Description	
Data and maps	Updated compilation and publication of E-PRTR/large combustion plants (LCP) data sets	Completed <a href="#">E-PRTR, LCP</a>
Information system	Hosting of and support to maintenance of the E-PRTR website	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Data and maps	Compilation and publication of EU Registry on industrial sites	Completed
Joint products and contributions	Support to ongoing development of industrial emissions reporting and data management framework, including assessing further streamlining opportunities to simplify national reporting	Completed
Joint products and contributions	Provision of policy support	Completed

### Outputs SA1.3: Climate change mitigation, energy and transport

Format	Description	Output
<b>Key</b>		
Standard EEA report R <sup>(a)</sup>	Annual European Union greenhouse gas inventory 1990-2017 and inventory report 2019	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 6/2019</a>
Standard EEA report R <sup>(a)</sup>	Annual European Union approximated greenhouse gas inventory for the year 2018	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 16/2019</a>
Standard EEA report R <sup>(a)</sup>	Ozone-depleting substances 2019	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 12/2019</a>
Standard EEA report R <sup>(a)</sup>	Fluorinated greenhouse gases 2019	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 20/2019</a>
Standard EEA report R <sup>(a)</sup>	Quality and greenhouse gas intensities of transport fuels in the EU in 2017	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 5/2019</a>
Standard EEA report R <sup>(a)</sup>	Monitoring CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from new passenger cars, new vans and new heavy-duty vehicles in 2018	Postponed to 2020



Format	Description	Output
Standard EEA report	Trends and projections in Europe 2019 — Tracking progress towards Europe's climate and energy targets	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 15/2019</a>
Standard EEA report	TERM 2019: The first and last mile — the key to sustainable urban transport	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 18/2019</a>
Briefing R (a)	More national climate policies expected, but how effective are the existing ones?	Completed <a href="#">EEA Briefing No 11/2019</a>
Briefing	The EU Emissions Trading System in 2019: trends and projections	Completed <a href="#">EEA Briefing No 8/2019</a>
Briefing	Renewable energy in Europe: key for climate objectives, but air pollution needs attention	Completed <a href="#">EEA Briefing No 13/2019</a>
Core set indicator	CSI010/CLIM050 — Total greenhouse gas emission trends and projections in Europe	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core set indicator	CSI013/CLIM052 — Atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core set indicator	CSI006/CLIM049 — Production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core set indicator	CSI044/CLIM048 — Emissions and supply of fluorinated greenhouse gases in Europe	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core set indicator	CSI056/TERM039 — Passenger and freight transport demand in Europe	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core set indicator	CSI037/TERM031 — Use of renewable fuels in transport in Europe	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core set indicator	CSI027/ENER016 — Final energy consumption by sector and fuel in Europe	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core set indicator	CSI028/ENER017 — Energy intensity in Europe	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core set indicator	CSI029/ENER026 — Primary energy consumption by fuel in Europe	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core set indicator	CSI048/ENER028 — Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption in Europe	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core data flow	Greenhouse gas inventories (UNFCCC)	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core data flow	Greenhouse gas inventories	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core data flow	Approximated greenhouse gas inventories	<a href="#">Completed</a>



Format	Description	Output
Core data flow	Projections (greenhouse gas emissions and removals)	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Eionet workshop	NRC meeting on environment and energy	Completed
Eionet workshop	NRC meeting on mitigation of climate change	Completed

Supporting		
Briefing	Recent trends and projections in EU greenhouse gas emissions	Cancelled Content included in <a href="#">EEA Report No 15/2019</a>
EEA report	Key trends in and drivers of greenhouse gas emissions, policy co-benefits and the importance of a sustainable measurement, reporting and verification system	Cancelled Content will be included in a 2020 briefing
Briefing	Emission trends and drivers in the Effort Sharing sectors	Completed <a href="#">EEA Briefing No 16/2019</a>
Country fact sheets	Climate and energy country fact sheets (annual)	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Briefing	TERM briefing: Progress of Europe's transport sector towards environment and climate objectives	Completed <a href="#">EEA Briefing No 15/2019</a>
Briefing	Fiscal instruments favouring electric over conventional cars are greener	Completed <a href="#">EEA Briefing No 6/2019</a>
Briefing	Impacts of circular economy actions on decarbonisation	Postponed to 2020
Briefing	Air pollution and climate change interaction	Cancelled
Joint products and contributions	Contribution to SOER 2020: climate change mitigation, energy sector/energy system	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Contribution to key processes	Coordination of the 2019 annual review of national greenhouse gas inventory data under the Effort Sharing Decision	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Contribution to key processes	Support to the implementation of the Energy Union Governance Regulation, including assistance in the establishment of an online reporting platform	Completed





Contribution to key processes	Provision of policy support in the context of the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement and the Montreal Protocol	Completed
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**Note:**

(<sup>a</sup>) Regular report under an EU legislation and/or international convention.

**Outputs SA1.4: Climate change adaptation and LULUCF**

Format	Description	Output
<b>Key</b>		
Standard EEA report R ( <sup>a</sup> )	Adaptation challenges and opportunities for the European energy system	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 1/2019</a>
Standard EEA report R ( <sup>a</sup> )	Climate change adaptation in the agriculture sector in Europe	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 4/2019</a>
Core set indicator	CSI012 — Global and European temperature	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core set indicator	CSI046 — Sea surface temperature	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core set indicator	CSI047 — Global and European sea level rise	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core set indicator	CSI053 — Arctic and Baltic sea ice	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core set indicator	CSI042 — Economic losses from climate-related extremes in Europe	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Eionet workshop	Eionet NRC workshop on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation	Completed
<b>Supporting</b>		
Information systems	Updated and improved European Climate Change Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT)	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Country fact sheets	Climate-ADAPT country profiles	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Indicator	CLIM004 — Heavy precipitation in Europe	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Indicator	CLIM009 — Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Indicator	CLIM047 — Heating and cooling degree days	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Joint products and contributions	Contribution to SOER 2020: climate change adaptation, urban	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Joint products and contributions	Contribution to the Commission's (DG CLIMA) Covenant of Mayors initiative, and regular Local Governments for Sustainability conference on urban adaptation	<a href="#">Completed</a>



Format	Description	Output
Joint products and contributions	Collaboration with the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, link to and use of the Copernicus climate change service	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Contribution to key processes	Support for the implementation of the LULUCF Regulation	Completed

**Note:**

(<sup>a</sup>) Regular report under an EU legislation and/or international convention.

**Outputs SA1.5: Water management, resources and ecosystems**

Format	Description	Output
<b>Key</b>		
Standard EEA report R ( <sup>a</sup> )	European bathing water quality in 2018	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 3/2019</a>
Core data flow	WISE SoE — Water quantity (WISE-3)	Completed
Core data flow	Bathing Water Directive — Monitoring and classification of bathing waters	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core data flow	Bathing Water Directive — Identification of bathing areas	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core data flow	WISE SoE — Water quality (WISE-4)	Completed
Core set indicator	CSI019/C3 — Oxygen-consuming substances in European rivers	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core set indicator	CSI020/C4 — Nutrients in freshwater in Europe	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Eionet workshop	Eionet NRC workshop on freshwater	Completed
<b>Supporting</b>		
Standard EEA report	EEA assessment report on floodplain ecosystems	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 24/2019</a>
Country factsheet R ( <sup>a</sup> )	Bathing water quality country reports	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Briefing	Water and agriculture	Cancelled
Briefing	Urban waste water treatment for 21st century challenges	Completed <a href="#">EEA Briefing No 5/2019</a>



Format	Description	Output
Contributions	Contribution to SOER 2020: water management, resources and ecosystems	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Contributions	Contributions supporting the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (specifically target 2/action 5)	Completed
Contributions	Continue work on water quantity and water quality accounts	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Indicators	Updated freshwater indicators (biochemical oxygen demand in rivers, nitrate in groundwater and phosphate in rivers, CSI024)	Completed <a href="#">CSI 018</a> <a href="#">CSI 019</a> <a href="#">CSI 020</a>
Information systems	Maintain and develop WISE-Freshwater in relation to Eionet core data flows and reporting (WISE SoE) and the Bathing Water Directive, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, WFD and Floods Directive at agreed support levels; work towards enabling WISE as a dissemination and information sharing tool for freshwater and marine topics.	Completed
Other	Continue supporting the common implementation strategy (CIS) under the WFD (e.g. co-chairing of the working group on data and information sharing) and the Floods Directive (level 1 support), and other water-related directives	Completed
Other	Drinking Water Directive 2018 reporting support (level 1); reporting under the recast Drinking Water Directive selected to be put forward as a candidate pilot under Reportnet 3.0	Completed

**Note:**

(<sup>a</sup>) Regular report under an EU legislation and/or international convention.

**Outputs SA1.6: Marine and coastal environment and maritime activities**

Format	Description	Output
<b>Key</b>		
Standard EEA report	Marine messages II	Postponed to November 2020 at request of Commission



Format	Description	Output
Core set indicator	CSI032/MAR007 — Status of marine fish and shellfish stocks in European seas	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core set indicator	CSI033/MAR009 — Aquaculture production	Cancelled
Core data flows	Marine data (ME-1) — WISE SoE — Water quality in transitional, coastal and marine waters (WISE-6)	Completed
Core data flows	WISE SoE-Biological data in transitional and coastal waters (WISE-2)	Completed
Core data flow	Dashboards on MSFD 2018/2019 reporting (Articles 8, 9, 10)	Completed
Eionet workshop	Eionet NRC marine workshop	Completed
<b>Supporting</b>		
Standard EEA report	Eutrophication in Europe's seas	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 14/2019</a>
Contributions	Contribution to SOER 2020: marine environment	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Contributions	Contributions supporting the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (specifically target 2/action 5)	Completed
Indicators	Updated supporting marine indicators (MAR001, MAR002, MAR003, MAR012)	Completed <a href="#">CSI 049/MAR 001</a> <a href="#">MAR 002</a> <a href="#">MAR 003</a> <a href="#">MAR 012</a>
Information systems	Implement phase II of WISE-Marine: organise Eionet core data flows and reporting (WISE-SoE) and MSFD 2019 reporting (Articles 18 and 19.3). Update WISE-Marine Portal: marine and freshwater information across policies. Work towards enabling WISE as a dissemination and information sharing tool for freshwater and marine topics.	Completed
Workshops and meetings	Marine litter indicators	Completed



Format	Description	Output
Other	<p>Enhance cooperation with Regional Sea Convention secretariats, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and Copernicus marine environment monitoring service (CMEMS) on data and information, particularly with regard to the EEA's thematic assessments, including relevance to SDGs (SDG 14 and SDG 6).</p> <p>The EEA maintains a selected overview of governance/assessment developments in the Arctic, and, when relevant, in consultation with lead European Commission services, the EEA comments as requested on meeting documents or thematic reports.</p>	Completed
Other	<p>Continue supporting the implementation of the MSFD; co-chair the working group on data, information and knowledge exchange and the technical group on data; observer to maritime spatial planning technical working groups</p>	Completed

#### Outputs SA1.7: Biodiversity, ecosystems, agriculture and forests

Format	Description	Output
<b>Key</b>		
Briefing	Tools to support green infrastructure planning and ecosystem restoration	Completed <a href="#">EEA Briefing No 1/2019</a>
Briefing	Precision farming and agricultural management	Cancelled Due to staff departure
Core data flow	Nationally designated areas (Common Database on Designated Areas, CDDA-1)	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core data flow	Report on implementation measures (Article 17, Habitats Directive)	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core data flow	Information on Natura 2000 sites (special protection areas, Birds Directive)	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core data flow	Progress/implementation report (Article 12, Birds Directive)	<a href="#">Completed</a>



Format	Description	Output
Core data flow	Information on Natura 2000 sites (sites of community importance/special areas of conservation, Habitats Directive)	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core data flow	Emerald Network	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Eionet meetings	Eionet NRC workshop on biodiversity	Completed
Eionet meetings	Eionet NRC workshop on agriculture	Completed
Eionet meetings	Eionet NRC workshop on forests	Completed
Core set indicator	CSI050/SEBI001 — Abundance and distribution of selected species	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core set indicator	CSI008/SEBI007 — Nationally designated protected areas	<a href="#">Completed</a>
<b>Supporting</b>		
Country fact sheets	Country fact sheets on EU Member State reporting under the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive	Completed <a href="#">Birds Directive</a> <a href="#">Habitats Directive</a>
Joint products and contributions	European Nature Information System (EUNIS) habitat classification further revised and developed	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Data and maps	Maintained and further improved EUNIS web application (habitats, species and sites)	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Data and maps	Support for reporting process for invasive alien species and preparation of assessment in link to information under nature directives (hosting process, financed by DG ENV)	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Data and maps	Support for reporting process for the NEC Directive Article 9 ecosystem assessment (hosting process, currently financed by DG ENV)	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Information system	Further develop and update BISE (Biodiversity Information System for Europe), hosting data, maps, indicators and information relevant for the final evaluation of the biodiversity strategy 2020, including links to FISE (Forest Information System for Europe)	Completed



<b>Format</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Output</b>
Information system	Support for the development of FISE and links to BISE (hosting process, financed by DG ENV)	Completed
Indicators	Update of the streamlining European biodiversity indicators 2020 (SEBIO08, SEBIO11, SEBIO16, SEBIO19, SEBIO20, SEBIO23, SEBIO26) and further develop SEBIO02, SEBIO06 and SEBIO10, taking into account links to global indicator frameworks	Completed
Joint products and contributions	Draft assessment 'State of nature', based on data reported under the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive and ecosystem assessment considerations	Completed
Joint products and contributions	EEA contribution to final MAES assessment, leading to the integration of nature data, respective thematic assessments and wetlands narrative	Completed
Joint products and contributions	Input into the Environmental Knowledge Community's (EKC) innovation project on natural capital accounting, final delivery of ecosystem accounts (extent, water, nutrient)	Completed
Joint products and contributions	Input into the EU's contribution to the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	Completed
Joint products and contributions	Contribution to the development of CAP indicators	Completed
Joint products and contributions	Further develop the EEA agricultural road map as a cross-cutting activity that relates ecosystem assessment and biodiversity to land use, soil functionality, LULUCF, etc.	Postponed
Joint products and contributions	Assessments on forests, linking to ongoing developments in Europe, including the EU forest strategy	Postponed



### Outputs SA1.8: Urban, land use and soil

Format	Description	Output
<b>Key</b>		
Core set indicator	Updated LSI004/CSI054 indicator — Landscape fragmentation pressure from urban and transport infrastructure expansion	Completed
Core set indicator	Updated LSI001/CSI014 indicator — Land take (based on Copernicus 2018 updates)	Completed
Eionet meeting	Eionet NRC meetings on soil, land use and spatial planning	Completed
<b>Supporting</b>		
Joint products and contributions	Contribution to SOER 2020: urban, land use and soil	Completed
Data and maps	Structured information on land degradation and evolution of land and soil functions, including agricultural and forest information	Completed
Indicators (proposal)	Delivery of regular data updates on changes in biomass and phenology in Europe	Completed
Indicators	Re-analysis of time series 2006-2018 on imperviousness, using Copernicus high-resolution layer (update of LSI002)	Completed
Indicators (proposal)	Implementation of new Copernicus-based land indicators for grasslands and peri-urban areas	Completed
Joint products and contributions	Support the development of green infrastructure and an EU-wide knowledge base on nature-based solutions for target 2 of the biodiversity strategy 2020	Completed
Joint products and contributions	Analysis of key trends informing changes in urban ecosystems, supporting the urban sustainability report 2020	Completed
Data and maps	Refinement of integrated data platform for integrated spatial assessments and accounts	Completed





### Outputs SA1.9: Waste and material resources

Format	Description	Output
<b>Key</b>		
Standard EEA report R <sup>(a)</sup>	Preventing plastic waste in Europe	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 2/2019</a>
Core set indicator	CSI041/WST004 — Waste generation in Europe	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core set indicator	CSI052/WST005 — Waste recycling	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Core set indicator	Diversion of waste from landfill (new in 2019, WST006)	<a href="#">Completed</a>
<b>Supporting</b>		
Country fact sheets	Waste prevention country fact sheets	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Briefing	Reducing loss of resources from waste management is key to strengthening the circular economy in Europe	Completed <a href="#">EEA Briefing No 7/2019</a>
Briefing	Construction and demolition waste in Europe: challenges and opportunities in a circular economy	Completed <a href="#">EEA Briefing No. 14/2019</a>
Joint products and contributions	Contribution to SOER 2020: Waste and material resources	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Contribution to key processes	Provision of harmonised policy support across waste, material resource efficiency and the circular economy	Completed

**Note:**

<sup>(a)</sup> Regular report under an EU legislation and/or international convention.

### Outputs SA2.1: Resource-efficient economy and the environment

Format	Description	Output
<b>Key</b>		
Standard EEA report	Paving the way for a circular economy: insights on status and potentials	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 11/2019</a>



Format	Description	Output
Standard EEA report	Sustainability transition in Europe in the age of demographic and technological change. Implications for fiscal and financial strategies	Completed EEA Report No 23/2019
<b>Supporting</b>		
Meeting	Stakeholder meeting on looking backwards, looking forwards report	Completed
Standard EEA report	Resource efficiency and the circular economy in Europe —even more from less	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 26/2019</a>
Country fact sheets	Third inventory of national resource efficiency and circular economy policies	Completed and published on <a href="#">ETC/WMGE website</a>
Briefing	The plastic waste trade in the circular economy	Completed <a href="#">EEA Briefing No 6/2019</a>
Briefing	Textiles in Europe's circular economy	Completed <a href="#">EEA Briefing No 10/2019</a>
Briefing	An overview of national targets and monitoring frameworks for the circular economy	Cancelled
Joint products and contributions	Contribution to SOER 2020: green economy transition	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Joint products and contributions	Knowledge inputs into the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform	Completed
Joint products and contributions	Enhance Eionet interactions and contributions on the synergies and trade-offs between EU low-carbon, circular and bio-economies strategy objectives	Completed



### Outputs SA2.2: Environment, human health and well-being

Format	Description	Output
<b>Key</b>		
Standard EEA report	Environment, health and well-being, with a focus on inequalities	Postponed to Q3 2020 due to Covid-19 crisis
<b>Supporting</b>		
Briefing	Emerging risks in Europe's environment — perfluorinated chemicals	Completed <a href="#">PFAS briefing</a>
Joint products and contributions	Contribution to SOER 2020: chemicals, human health and well-being	Completed <a href="#">SOER 2020</a>
Contributions to key processes	Produce analytical and communication outputs in support of HBM4EU (non-core)	Completed <a href="#">HBM4EU results</a>
Contributions to key processes	Provide updates for IPCHEM	Completed <a href="#">IPCHEM</a>

### Outputs SA2.3: Megatrends and transitions

Format	Description	Output
<b>Key</b>		
Standard EEA report	Sustainability transitions; policy and practice	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 9/2019</a>
Standard EEA report	Drivers of change and their implications on the European environment — A systems-based overview	Completed EEA Report No 25/2019
Eionet meeting	Annual meeting with NRC for forward-looking information and services (FLIS)	Completed
<b>Supporting</b>		
Indicators	Update of two outlook indicators: population (UN based) and gross domestic product (OECD based)	Postponed as part of the process to reconsider approaches to EEA indicators



Format	Description	Output
Workshops and meetings	A forward-looking, systems-oriented, participatory process on system transitions, addressing circular, low-carbon and bio-economy dimensions, and links to SDGs in support of EU environment strategy building	Completed
Contribution to key processes	Contribution to processes at EU level for the development of EU-wide knowledge with Eionet input, i.e. the EKC 's environment process for the identification of emerging issues	Completed

#### Outputs SA2.4: Sustainability assessments and state of the environment reporting

Format	Description	Output
<b>Key</b>		
Standard EEA report R <sup>(a)</sup>	SOER 2020 integrated assessment report <i>The European Environment — State and outlook 2020: Knowledge for transitions to a sustainable Europe</i>	Completed <a href="#">EEA Report No 14/2019</a>
Eionet meeting	Annual meeting with NRCs for SoE reporting	Completed
<b>Supporting</b>		
Joint EEA/FOEN report	Assessment of Europe's environmental footprint based on planetary boundaries: <i>A safe operating space for Europe — Explorations based on planetary boundaries and environmental footprints</i>	Postponed to 2020
Reports and assessments	Produce draft integrated assessment on urban sustainability transitions, for publication in 2020 in support of the Urban Agenda	Completed
Meeting and workshop	Stakeholder meetings on urban sustainability	Completed
Workshops and meetings	Design and run process of stakeholder interactions to provide input to SOER 2020 synthesised report <i>Knowledge for action</i>	Completed



Format	Description	Output
Joint products and contributions	Produce first draft of the SOER 2020 synthesis report for publication in 2020, and, inter alia, contribute to the evaluation of the 7th EAP	Completed Renamed <i>Knowledge for action</i>
Indicators	Maintain indicators and an indicator-based analysis that will contribute to the monitoring of the 7th EAP and the Environmental Implementation Review process	Completed <a href="#">EEA indicators</a>
Contributions to key processes	Member of expert groups on sustainable finance, with a focus on the development of a taxonomy for environmentally sustainable activities  Organised a Scientific Committee seminar on sustainable finance in May 2019  Contribute to and cooperate with the EPA Green Finance Group	Completed
Contributions to key processes	Coordinate EKC contributions on the Within Limits of the Planet Knowledge Innovation Project and on strategic horizontal issues (e.g. emerging risks, indicators, SDGs)	Completed
Contributions to key processes	Strengthen cooperation and partnerships on policy evaluation methods and studies (specific policy assessments to be identified under strategic area 1, SA1)	Completed
Contributions to key processes	Further develop an assessment on SDG interactions from an environmental perspective	Completed
Contributions to key processes	Improve the concept and understanding of the environment integrated assessment for sustainability and its added value in the context of the EEA, with a focus on forward-looking and system assessments under conditions of complexity, uncertainty and ambiguity, including the quality of evidence and robustness assessment, in collaborative way	Completed

**Note:**

(<sup>a</sup>) Regular report under an EU legislation and/or international convention.



### Outputs SA3.1 Networking and partnerships

Format	Description	Output
<b>Key</b>		
Eionet meetings	NFP/Eionet meetings (3)	Completed
Eionet meetings	NFP/Eionet webinars	Completed
<b>Supporting</b>		
Information systems	Ongoing revision of the Eionet Portal	Completed
Workshops and meetings	Eionet country visits	Completed
Workshops and meetings	EPA Network meetings (2)	Completed
Workshops and meetings	Beyond Eionet meeting with businesses	Completed
Workshops and meetings	EEAcademy summer schools	Completed
Workshops and meetings	EEAcademy filmed lectures	Postponed
Contribution to joint products	Contributions to major regional and global processes, in particular the pan-European process and the UN Environment Assembly	Completed

### Outputs SA.3.2: Technical systems development

Format	Description	Output
<b>Supporting</b>		
Information systems	Reportnet 2.0 suite tools finalised	Completed
Information system	Reportnet 3.0. project deliverables planned for 2019, including pilots or test cases	Completed



Format	Description	Output
Information system	Help desk and maintenance of internal and external IT systems and software applications for monitoring and reporting, to support EEA strategic areas	Completed
Information systems	Improved the EEA website to provide up-to-date online information	Completed

### Outputs SA3.3: Monitoring, data and information management

Format	Description	Output
<b>Supporting</b>		
Briefing	Eionet country core data flows 2018	Completed <a href="#">EEA Briefing No 3/2019</a>
Information system	EEA common workspace	Completed
Information system	User support on external software applications for data mining, processing and analysis, i.e. Tableau, FME, ArcGIS	Completed

### Outputs SA3.4 Communication, outreach and user analysis

Format	Description	Output
<b>Key</b>		
Eionet meeting	Annual meeting and communication activities with Eionet NRCs on communication	Completed
Signals style report	Signals 2019 — Land and soil in Europe	<a href="#">Completed</a>
Eionet meeting	25th anniversary stakeholder event	Completed
<b>Supporting</b>		
Communication products	Communication planning and activities supporting annual priorities	Completed
Communication products	SOER communication products and activities based on the SOER communication plan	Completed



Format	Description	Output
Communication products	Quarterly online corporate newsletter	Completed
Information systems	Improved user experience of the EEA website	Completed
Communication products	Media relations	Completed
Communication products	Production and dissemination of quality-assured and targeted EEA outputs (editing, publishing and dissemination)	Completed
Communication products	Promotion of EEA outputs and messages through social media channels	Completed
Communication products	Customer relations and targeted dissemination to stakeholders	Completed
Communication products	Delivery of SOER 2020 communication strategy	Completed
Communication products	Dialogue activities, such as face-to-face meetings, events, conferences and workshops	Completed
Corporate products	Evaluation of the impact of EEA outputs	Completed
Corporate products	25th anniversary book	<a href="#">Completed</a>

### Outputs SA3.5: Quality management and operational services

Format	Description	Output
<b>Supporting</b>		
Information system	Quality management system	Completed
Corporate products	Environmental management system (EMAS)	Completed
Information system	EEA IT infrastructure and services	Completed
Information system	EEA annual management plan system (MPS)	Completed
Information system	EEA career development system, CDC	Completed
Information system	EEA intranet	Completed
Corporate products	Document management system	Completed





### Outputs SA3.6: Copernicus operational services

Format	Description	Output
<b>Key</b>		
Eionet meetings	Annual Eionet NRC workshop on land cover	Completed
<b>Supporting</b>		
Data and maps	Land use and land cover change data services of the pan-European and local component of the Copernicus land monitoring service	Completed
Information system	Management of land.copernicus.eu portal for access to Copernicus land monitoring data and services	Completed
Information system	Management of insitu.copernicus.eu portal for access to Copernicus in situ data and services	Completed

### Outputs SA3.7 Capacity building in Western Balkan and European Neighbourhood countries

Format	Description	Output
<b>Supporting</b>		
Workshops and meetings	Participation of Western Balkan NFPs and assistants in NFP/Eionet meetings and webinars	Completed
Eionet meetings	Participation of Western Balkan NRCs in Eionet meetings	Completed
Workshops and meetings	Visits to Western Balkans countries	Completed
Workshops and meetings	Annual Steering Committee meeting of ENI SEIS II South project	Postponed to 2020
Workshops and meetings	NRC-type thematic meetings with the ENI South region	Completed
Workshops and meetings	Country visits to ENI (South) countries	Completed
EEA report	EEA-UN environment Mediterranean action plan – second indicator-based joint report on Horizon 2020 for a cleaner Mediterranean	Postponed to 2020



Format	Description	Output
Workshops and meetings	Annual Steering Committee meeting of the ENI SEIS II East project	Completed
Workshops and meetings	NRC-type thematic meetings with the ENI East region	Completed in the addressed thematic areas of water, air quality, land cover and environmental assessments
Workshops and meetings	Country visits to ENI (East) countries	Completed

#### Outputs SA4.1: Governance and management

Format	Description	Output
<b>Key</b>		
Eionet meetings	Management Board meetings (3) and seminar (1), and Bureau meetings (3)	Completed
<b>Supporting</b>		
Corporate products	Single Programming Document 2019-2021	Completed <a href="#">EEA Administrative Document No 1/2019</a>
Corporate products	Draft Programming Document 2020-2022	Completed
Corporate products	Consolidated annual activity report	Completed <a href="#">EEA Corporate Document No 1/2019</a>
Corporate products	Deliveries defined in the annual audit plan approved by the EEA Management Board	Completed
Workshops and meetings	EEA Scientific Committee meetings (3)	Completed
Workshops and meetings	EEA Scientific Committee seminars (3)	Completed
Workshops and meetings	EEAcademy schools (3) on integrated assessment and sustainability transitions	Completed

**Outputs SA4.2 Administration**

<b>Format</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Output</b>
<b>Supporting</b>		
Corporate products	Reply to the European Parliament's discharge 2017	Completed
Corporate products	Annual accounts 2018	Completed
Corporate products	Budgetary and Financial Management Report 2018	Completed
Corporate products	Budget 2019 (publication in the Official Journal of the European Union)	<a href="#">Completed</a>



## ANNEX 9 ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY

7th EAP	Seventh Environment Action Programme
8th EAP	Eighth Environment Action Programme
ADS	Administrative services programme of the EEA
Aichi targets	20 time-bound, measurable targets to be met by the year 2020 (Aichi Biodiversity Targets) under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
BISE	Biodiversity Information System for Europe
CAAR	Consolidated annual activity report
CAP	Common agricultural policy
CAS	Coordination and strategy programme of the EEA
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDDA	Common Database on Designated Areas
CET	Climate change, energy and transport programme of the EEA
CIS	Common implementation strategy
CLC	Corine Land Cover
Climate-ADAPT	European Climate Adaptation Platform
CMEMS	Copernicus marine environment monitoring service
COM	Communications programme of the EEA
CSI	Core set indicators
DG	Directorate-General
DG AGRI	DG for Agriculture and Rural Development
DG CLIMA	DG for Climate Action
DG DEVCO	DG for International Cooperation and Development
DG ENV	DG for Environment
DG NEAR	DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
DG RTD	DG for Research and Innovation
DIS	Data and information services programme of the EEA
DPSIR	Driving forces-pressures-state-impact-responses
DWD	Drinking Water Directive
ECA	European Court of Auditors
EDO	Executive Director's Office
EEA	European Environment Agency
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
Eionet	European Environment Information and Observation Network
EKC	Environment Knowledge Community
EMAS	Eco-Management and Audit Scheme
EMEP	European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme
END	European Noise Directive
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument
EPA	Environment Protection Agencies
EPA Network	European Network of the Heads of Environment Protection Agencies



EPSC	European Political Strategy Centre
E-PRTR	European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register
ETC	European Topic Centre
ETC/ACM	ETC on Air Pollution and Climate Change Mitigation
ETC/BD	ETC on Biological Diversity
ETC/CCA	ETC on Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation
ETC/CME	ETC on Climate Change Mitigation and Energy
ETC/ICM	ETC on Inland, Coastal and Marine Waters
ETC/ULS	ETC on Urban, Land and Soil Systems
ETC/WMGE	ETC on Waste and Materials in a Green Economy
EU	European Union
EUNIS	European Nature Information System
F-gas	Fluorinated greenhouse gas
FISE	Forest Information System for Europe
FR	Financial Regulation (EU budget)
GEO	Group on Earth Observations
GEOSS	Global Earth Observation System of Systems
HBM4EU	European Human Biomonitoring Initiative
HDV	Heavy duty vehicle
Horizon 2020	EU framework research and innovation programme 2014-2020
HSR	Health and sustainable resource use programme of the EEA
IAC	Internal audit capability
IAS	Integrated assessments for sustainability programme of the EEA
IED	Industrial Emissions Directive
Inspire	Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCHEM	Information Platform for Chemical Monitoring
IT	Information technology
JRC	Joint Research Centre (DG JRC)
KPI	Key performance indicator
LCP	Large combustion plant
LRTAP	Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry
MAES	Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services
MAWP	Multiannual work programme
MFF	Multiannual Financial Framework
MPS	Management Plan System
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
N/A	Not applicable
Natura 2000	EU-wide network of nature protection areas established under the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive
NCE	Natural capital and ecosystems programme of the EEA
NEC	National Emission Ceilings



NFP	National focal point
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NRC	National reference centre
ODS	Ozone-depleting substances
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PAMs	Policies and measures
PFASs	Per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances
ROD	Reporting Obligations Database
SA	Strategic area
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEBI	Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators
SEIS	Shared Environmental Information System for Europe
SoE	State of the environment
SOER 2020	<i>The European environment — State and outlook 2020</i> report
SPD	Single Programming Document
TERM	Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism
UN	United Nations
UNEA	UN Environment Assembly
UNECE	UN Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UWWTD	Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WHO	World Health Organization
WISE	Water Information System for Europe